

## Department of Planning and Budget 2016 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB56

**House of Origin**    ☒ Introduced    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Engrossed  
**Second House**    ☐ In Committee    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Kory

**3. Committee:** Privileges and Elections

**4. Title:** Elections; absentee voting by persons age 70 or older.

**5. Summary:** Entitles persons who will be age 70 or older on the date of an election for which an absentee ballot is requested to vote absentee.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes – Item 83 (Electoral Services)

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary – See Item 8

**7a. Expenditure Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2016	\$0	0	
2017	\$8,814	0	GF
2018	\$0	0	
2019	\$0	0	
2020	\$0	0	
2021	\$0	0	
2022	\$0	0	

**7b. No revenue impact**

**8. Fiscal Implications:** This bill would require an update to the Virginia Election and Registration Information System (VERIS) to establish a new reason code (category) to identify voters 70 years or older to vote absentee, updates to absentee forms, reports, and other VERIS functionality to accommodate the new reason code (category). The Department estimates the cost to be \$2,500 for changes to VERIS; \$2,200 for changes to forms, web materials, and guidance documents; and \$4,114 to print and distribute new forms. Funding for these changes would require a budget amendment in the amount of \$8,814 in fiscal year 2017 only.

Localities may also experience an increase in the total cost of processing the absentee ballots at the local registrar's office: increased staff time would be needed to process in person applicants and to review and issue ballots in response to applications submitted other than in person. The cost of mailing an absentee ballot varies depending on volume and whether the locality utilizes the new no cost certificate of mailing option authorized in a 2015 agency bill.

Mailing an absentee ballot with a certificate of mailing purchased from USPS costs an estimated \$1.75.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Elections, general registrars, and localities

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** None