

## Department of Planning and Budget

### 2016 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB865

**House of Origin**    ☒ Introduced    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Engrossed

**Second House**    ☐ In Committee    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Hugo**3. Committee:** Privileges and Elections**4. Title:** Constitutional amendment (voter referendum); property tax exemption for surviving spouse of certain emergency services providers

**5. Summary:** Provides for a referendum at the November 8, 2016, election to approve or reject an amendment allowing the General Assembly to provide a local option to exempt from taxation the real property of the surviving spouse of any law-enforcement officer, firefighter, search and rescue personnel, or emergency medical services personnel who was killed in the line of duty. The amendment provides that the surviving spouse must occupy the real property as his or her principal place of residence and that the exemption ceases if the surviving spouse remarries.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes – Item 86 (Electoral Services).**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary – see Item 8.**Expenditure Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2016	\$0	0.00	-
2017	\$131,158	0.00	GF
2018	\$0	0.00	-
2019	\$0	0.00	-
2020	\$0	0.00	-
2021	\$0	0.00	-
2022	\$0	0.00	-

**8. Fiscal Implications:** Section 30-19.9, Code of Virginia, requires the State Board of Elections to run advertisements in state newspapers and prepare posters and pamphlets providing public notice about constitutional amendments. The estimated one-time cost relating to one amendment is \$131,158, which is based on the cost of advertising and printing for proposed 2014 constitutional amendments. This amount consists of approximately \$129,403 in newspaper advertising costs and \$1,755 for printing costs of pamphlets and posters.

The referendum, if approved, would allow localities to exempt the real property of the surviving spouse of any law-enforcement officer, firefighter, search and rescue personnel, or emergency medical services personnel who was killed in the line of duty from taxation. The Department of Taxation indicates the impact to local revenues is currently unknown.

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

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** None.