

Department of Planning and Budget
2016 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB222

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron: McEachin

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Voter registration; automatic voter registration.

5. Summary: Provides for the automatic electronic transmission by the Department of Motor Vehicles to the Department of Elections of certain information for any person coming into an office of the Department of Motor Vehicles or accessing its website in order to (i) apply for, replace, or renew a driver's license, (ii) apply for, replace, or renew a special identification card, or (iii) change an address on an existing driver's license or special identification card if the Department of Motor Vehicles records indicate that he (a) is a United States citizen, (b) is 18 years of age or older, and (c) at the time of the transaction does not decline to have his information transmitted to the Department of Elections for voter registration purposes. The option to decline to have his information so transmitted shall be presented at the time of one of the specified transactions with the Department of Motor Vehicles and shall be accompanied by a warning that intentionally making a materially false statement during the transaction and that voting more than once in any election in the same or different jurisdictions are both punishable under Virginia law as a felony. The information required to be transferred includes the person's full name, date of birth, gender, residence address, citizenship status, driver's license and social security number, and digital signature and an affirmation by the person that he meets all voter eligibility requirements. Upon receipt of the information, the Department of Elections is required to determine whether the person is already registered to vote. If the person is already registered to vote, the Department of Elections is required to take certain steps to update the voter's registration records. If the person is not already registered to vote, the Department of Elections is required to verify that the person meets all voter eligibility requirements and, if so finding, is required to transmit the information to the appropriate general registrar. The bill repeals the requirement that the Department of Motor Vehicles offer, accept, receive, and send voter registration applications.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary – see Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: The proposed legislation is not expected to result in a significant fiscal impact for either the Department of Elections (ELECT) or Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). DMV currently charges ELECT \$600 on a monthly basis for the full DMV file that is provided to ELECT as required in § 24.2-410.1, Code of Virginia. The proposed

legislation is not expected to result in subsequent transfers from DMV to ELECT; therefore, ELECT is not expected to incur additional costs.

DMV has been working with ELECT since 2014 to create an electronic transmission system for voter registration applications. Because this is an ongoing project, DMV anticipates its current staff will complete the project during the normal work schedules; therefore DMV does not expect to incur additional administrative costs.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Elections and Department of Motor Vehicles.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: This bill is a companion to HB67 (Sullivan), HB416 (Bagby), and HB1002 (Levine).