

Department of Planning and Budget 2017 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB1051

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

2. **Patron:** Ebbin

3. **Committee:** Privileges and Elections

4. **Title:** Voter registration at the Department of Motor Vehicles; opt-out voter registration.

5. **Summary:** This bill provides for the 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 Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) would be required to revise its electronic motor voter registration application, which may require DMV to create and customers to complete additional information screens. Adding information screens to the application process would increase the time each customer spends completing the electronic

motor voter registration application, which could increase wait times. DMV would also need to update its automated programs to include this new data in its printed application format and ensure the proper transmission of the format and data to the DMV automated print program used to produce the voter application for in-person or by-mail DMV transactions.

DMV has determined that this legislation will not result in a significant expenditure increase for the agency. The System Support Group within DMV has estimated the hours that may be needed for the information technology staff to implement the legislation and the staff hours required can be accomplished during the normal work schedules for DMV employees, given current workloads.

The Department of Elections has also determined that this legislation will not result in a significant expenditure increase for the agency.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: This fiscal impact statement does not interpret the bill such that customers would have to prove citizenship in order to register to vote. If DMV was required to collect and transmit proof of citizenship to the Department of Elections, this would significantly change DMV's current process and would require time and funds to implement.

This bill is a companion to HB 2182 and HB 2088.

Date: 1/17/2017

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cc: Secretary of Transportation