Department of Planning and Budget
2017 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB1132

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

2. **Patron:** Mason

3. **Committee:** Privileges and Elections

4. **Title:** Absentee voting; eligibility of persons age 65 or older.

5. **Summary:** Entitles a person who will be age 65 or older on the date of the election for which an absentee ballot is requested to vote absentee.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary**: No.

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

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 that voters 65 years or older are eligible to vote absentee. The agency would also have to update absentee forms, reports, and other VERIS functionality to accommodate the new reason code. The Department of Elections estimates the cost of these updates to be $8,814: $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.

   As stand-alone legislation, the Department of Elections considers implementation of this bill as "routine," and does not require additional funding. The Department of Elections will review all electoral legislation likely to be enacted prior to the passage by each house. If the aggregate number of "routine" bills likely to pass either house is unusually large, it is possible that the Department of Elections will require additional resources. If so, the Department of Elections will identify the costs at that time.

   Localities may also experience an increase in the total cost of processing the absentee ballots at the local registrar's office, such as increased staff time needed to process in person applicants and to review and issue ballots in response to applications submitted other than in person.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Virginia Department of Elections, State Board of Elections, local electoral boards, and general registrars.

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

11. Other Comments: This bill is identical to Senate Bill 1016 (Barker) and Senate Bill 792 (Ebbin) and companion to House Bill 1818 (Hayes) and House Bill 2275 (Krizek).