

Department of Planning and Budget 2017 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB1254-E

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

2. Patron: Obenshain

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Department of Elections; annual audit of ballot scanner machines.

5. Summary: Requires the Department of Elections to conduct a post-election risk-limiting annual audit of voting machines in use in the Commonwealth. The localities selected for the audit are to be chosen at random with every locality participating in the Department's annual audit at least once during a five-year period. The bill requires the Department to submit a report on the results of each audit to the State Board of Elections.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes – Item 86.

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

Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2017	\$0	0.00	-
2018	\$188,076	2.00	GF
2019	\$188,076	2.00	GF
2020	\$188,076	2.00	GF
2021	\$188,076	2.00	GF
2022	\$188,076	2.00	GF
2023	\$188,076	2.00	GF

8. Fiscal Implications: The proposed legislation requires voting machines throughout the Commonwealth to be audited annually by the Department of Elections (ELECT) using risk-limiting audit procedures. The risk-limiting audit examines a random sample of ballots and the scope of the audit is determined by several factors, including the margin of victory. The audit would be conducted after the period of time for challenging the election and initiating a recount has expired.

The estimated fiscal impact for ELECT is \$188,076 annually beginning in fiscal year 2018 to fund two full-time equivalent positions (voter equipment audit coordinator and statistical analyst) to manage the auditing process. The estimated cost for the voter equipment audit coordinator is \$84,716 and \$103,360 for the statistical analyst, which includes salaries and benefits. ELECT does not have the resources or staff within its current operating budget to manage the auditing process proposed in Senate Bill 1254. The two full-time equivalent

positions would allow ELECT develop a process for the random sampling of contests and precincts and conduct annual risk-limiting audits of voting machines.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.