

Department of Planning and Budget 2016 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB650

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

2. Patron: Cosgrove

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Voter registration by political party affiliation; primary elections.

5. Summary: Adds party affiliation, beginning January 1, 2017, to the information that an applicant is asked to provide when registering to vote. The applicant may indicate that he is an independent. Voters registered prior to January 1, 2017, will be designated as independent unless they provide a political party designation in writing to the general registrar. Voters may change their party affiliation or independent status by written notice at any time before the registration records are closed prior to an election. The state party chairman of each political party must notify the State Board of Elections by January 31 of each year of the rules adopted by the duly constituted authorities of the state political party governing who may participate in the party's primaries held from April 1 of that year through March 31 of the following year.

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	\$117,814	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: According to the Department of Elections (ELECT), the agency would have to implement one-time configuration modifications to the Virginia Election and Registration Information System (VERIS) at a cost of approximately \$80,000. These modifications would allow voters to indicate a political party affiliation. ELECT would also have to edit the election management program as political parties would be given the option of having a closed or open primary. Other costs for implementing the proposed legislation include \$25,000 to develop pollbook production processes that would account for party registration; \$6,500 to change the statewide voter registration database and online voter

registration application; \$2,200 to modify existing forms, guidance documents, and voter education; and \$4,114 to print and distribute forms.

Localities may have recurring costs for mailings due to voters opting to indicate or change the party affiliation on their voter record. Section 24.2-404, Code of Virginia, requires the general registrars to provide confirmation documents for newly registered voters and for notice to registered voters on the system of changes and corrections in their registration records and polling places.

- 9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Elections, electoral boards, general registrars, and localities.
- 10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** On line 32, strike “new voter registration card” and insert “confirmation document”. Chapter 740 of the Acts of Assembly of 2015 requires general registrars to provide voter confirmation documents instead of voter registration cards for newly registered voters and for notice to registered voters on the system of changes and corrections in their registration records and polling places.
- 11. Other Comments:** None.