

Department of Planning and Budget

2018 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB331

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: Peake

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Voter registration; verification of social security numbers; provisional registration status.

5. Summary: Requires the general registrars to verify that the name, date of birth, and social security number provided by an applicant on the voter registration application match the information on file in the Social Security Administration database or other database approved by the State Board of Elections (State Board) before registering such applicant. If the information provided by the applicant does not match the information in such a database, the applicant (i) is provisionally registered to vote and notified as to what steps are needed to be fully registered to vote and (ii) is permitted to vote by provisional ballot, but such ballot shall not be counted until the voter presents certain information. The bill also requires the general registrars to verify annually no later than August 1 that the name, date of birth, and social security number in the registration record of each registered voter in the registrar's jurisdiction match the information on file with the Social Security Administration or other database approved by the State Board and, in accordance with § 24.2-429, to initiate the cancellation of the registration of any voter whose registration record information does not match the database information. The State Board is authorized to approve the use of any government database to the extent required to enable each general registrar to carry out the provisions of this measure and to promulgate rules for the use of such database. The Department of Elections is required to provide to the general registrars access to the Social Security Administration database and any other database approved by the State Board. The Department of Elections is further required to enter into any agreement with any federal or state agency to facilitate such access.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill would require certain applicants to be “provisionally registered,” which creates a new category of voter registration status. Modifications to the statewide voter registration system (VERIS) and the electronic pollbook system would be required in order to track and accommodate this new category. The Department of Elections (ELECT) estimates such system modifications would cost approximately \$720,000 and does not expect to be able to implement such changes by the time the legislation would take effect

on July 1, 2018. It is also currently uncertain where social security data may be obtained for the purposes of validating voter registration information, as it is ELECT's understanding that the Social Security Administration does not provide data for this purpose. Such data is expected to be available from a third party vendor such as a credit agency for a fee. However, § 24.2-418.01 D. of the bill allows the State Board of Elections to approve the use of any "government database" and may not permit the use of a private vendor. ELECT does not currently have sufficient information to determine any costs to access such data.

This bill would require General Registrars to individually validate applicant social security numbers (SSNs). Applicants whose information is not verified would be provisionally registered and permitted to submit a provisional ballot on election day and given time to correct the information or present a valid form of identification. This process would require ELECT to modify the statewide voter registration system (VERIS) to create a new category of voters and access information to validate SSN information. According to ELECT, the changes needed to VERIS for the bill will include:

- Add a new type of registration (currently there is only active, inactive, and cancelled)
- Modify all reports in VERIS to accommodate the new registration type
- Develop new reports to meet the needs of localities and the state to identify the provisional registrations
- Modify the electronic pollbook system to accommodate the new registration type
- Develop correspondence in VERIS that is generated when a voter falls into this new category
- Develop software so that VERIS can talk to the identified SSN verification service and modify VERIS to work with such software

Alone, these changes are expected to take approximately one year and could be completed by July 2019, at a cost of \$720,000 for three contractors at an average hourly salary of \$120 per hour and 2,000 hours each, according to ELECT. This does not include any costs that may be incurred to access SSN verification data.

Alternatively, the necessary VERIS changes could be incorporated into an existing multi-year project ELECT recently began to modernize VERIS, which is expected to be completed by July 2021. If the VERIS changes required by this bill were incorporated into the VERIS modernization process, the anticipated fiscal impact of such changes are expected to be negligible and could be completed with the project by July 2021, according to ELECT.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Virginia Department of Elections and localities

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 1/22/2018