

Commission on Local Government
Estimate of Local Fiscal Impact

2018 General Assembly Session

Bill: SB602

Patron: Ebbin

Date: 1/29/2018

In accordance with the provisions of §30-19.03 of the Code of Virginia, the staff of the Commission on Local Government offers the following analysis of the above-referenced legislation:

Bill Summary:

Allows for any registered voter to vote by absentee ballot in person beginning on the twenty-first day prior to any election in which he is qualified to vote without providing a reason or making prior application for an absentee ballot. The bill makes absentee voting in person available beginning on the forty-fifth day prior to the election and ending at 5:00 p.m. on the Saturday immediately preceding the election. The bill retains the current provisions for voting an absentee ballot by mail or in person prior to the twenty-first day before the election, including the application requirement and the list of statutory reasons for absentee voting.

*** Please note this bill is identical to HB733 (Carr) and SB136 (Howell).

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**Executive Summary:**

Localities have evaluated a negative fiscal impact ranging from \$0.00 - \$230,800.00. A majority of localities noted that the bill would require additional staff, and equipment costs to accommodate additional voters to onsite, and offsite locations.

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**Local Analysis:**

**Locality:** City of Danville

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$5,000.00

This estimate is based on additional staffing costs, estimated to be \$5,000. This would just be maintaining current office with no additional locations for voting.

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Locality: City of Harrisonburg

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$5,000.00

Fiscal impact is per election. This would require full staffing for 45 days prior to an election with a large enough room to handle voters. It would also require additional staff in the office.

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**Locality:** City of Winchester

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$15,000.00

HBs 57, 74, 733, and 835 all provide for some loosening on the limits (“no excuse”) of absentee voting – or the creation of “Early Voting” -- Some would require hours on Saturdays (beyond the 2 Saturdays prior to E-Day that we already work) and at least one of these bills allow for voting hours on some Sundays. All would require an increase in staff and staff hours, and office space. We would be looking at maybe at 2 more seasonal hourly assistant registrars – working about 4 or 5 pay periods prior to Election Day. This would be due to our having to “be open for business” for an increase in in-person voting, while at the same time juggling the normal “close of books” prior to E-Day and the extremely busy time of election prep.

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Locality: County of Henrico

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$230,800.00

Henrico would need satellite voting locations at recreation centers and libraries to accommodate the significantly increased foot traffic that would come from this bill. One off-site location would cost \$8,000 for a voting machine, \$4,000 for network line, computers, and printers, \$1000 for ballot storage and \$10/hr for 6 poll workers running about 8 hours a day for 21 days (\$10,080). Henrico would need to add at least two sites in each of the 5 districts. 10 sites at \$23,080 each totals to \$230,800.

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**Locality:** Fairfax County

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$0.00

No significant fiscal impact.

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