

Department of Planning and Budget

2018 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB825-S1

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

2. Patron: Edwards

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: State Board of Elections; membership; appointment of Commissioner of Elections.

5. Summary: The substitute bill increases the membership of the State Board of Elections (Board) from three members to five members. Representation shall be given to each of the political parties having the highest and next highest number of votes in the Commonwealth at the last preceding gubernatorial election, with three Board members being of the party of the Governor. Terms are initially staggered. The Governor shall designate one Board member as the Commissioner of Elections to serve as the chair of the Board and head the Department of Elections, acting as the principal administrative officer. The Commissioner of Elections shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor for a four-year term, which shall not constitute a term in determining the member's term limit. The Governor shall also designate one Board member to be vice-chair, representing the opposite political party as the chair. The Board is required to submit an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2019.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: As stand-alone legislation, ELECT considers implementation of this bill as “routine,” and does not require additional funding. However, the agency 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 the agency will require additional resources. If so, ELECT will identify the costs at that time.

The Department of Elections currently pays for travel costs and parking for members of the State Board of Elections. Travel costs depend on the distance travelled by an individual member and currently averages \$72.76 per meeting at an average of 136 miles round trip. Parking is \$588 annually for each member. Assuming four meetings per year using the current average travel cost, travel and parking for two additional members is estimated to be \$1,758 per year.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Virginia Department of Elections,
State Board of Elections.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 2/13/2018