

Department of Planning and Budget

2019 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1628

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: Hayes

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Absentee voting; persons age 65 or older.

5. Summary: Entitles a person who will be age 65 or older on the day of an election to vote by absentee ballot in that election.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: See Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: As stand-alone legislation, the Department of Elections 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, the Department of Elections will identify the costs at that time.

This bill would require an update to the Virginia Election and Registration Information System (VERIS) to establish a new reason code (category) to identify those voters 65 years or older eligible to vote absentee. Under current law, voter 65 or older must otherwise qualify to vote absentee under one of the other current reason codes aligning with the current list of statutory reasons under which absentee voting is allowed. The agency would also need to update absentee forms, reports, and other VERIS functionality to accommodate the modified reason code. The Department of Elections estimates the cost of these updates to be \$8,814: \$2,500 for changes to VERIS; \$2,200 for changes to forms, web materials, and guidance documents; and \$4,114 to print and distribute new forms.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.