

Department of Planning and Budget

2019 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB1198

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: Dance

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Absentee voting; no excuse required when voting in person.

5. Summary: Provides that any registered voter may vote by absentee ballot in person in any election in which he is qualified to vote without providing a reason for being unable to vote in person on election day. The bill retains the statutory list of reasons allowing a voter to cast an absentee ballot by mail.

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 remove the reason codes associated with the current list of statutory reasons under which absentee voting is allowed, which are currently required to be identified in the system in order to vote absentee. The agency would also need to update absentee forms, reports, and other VERIS functionality to reflect the removal of the reason codes in the system. 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.