

## **Department of Planning and Budget**

### **2019 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number:** SB1311

**House of Origin**    ☒ Introduced    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Engrossed  
**Second House**    ☐ In Committee    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Edwards

**3. Committee:** Privileges and Elections

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

**5. Summary:** Increases the membership of the State Board of Elections from three members to five members, with representation 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. Three Board members are to be of the party of the Governor. Terms of Board members are initially staggered. The Governor shall designate one member of the Board as the Commissioner of Elections to head the Department of Elections and to act as the principal administrative officer. The Commissioner shall also serve as the chair of the Board. The bill requires the Board to submit an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2020.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** See Item 8.

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

The bill would increase membership of the State Board of Elections (the Board) from three to five members, with one of the members being the Commissioner, who would serve as the Chairman of the Board. ELECT would incur additional expenses for travel, lodging, parking, and per diem costs for one additional board member. Costs of the Commissioner are considered a part of current expenses for the existing position.

The Department of Elections estimates additional annual costs of \$3,400 for one additional Board member. This estimate is based on the following annual cost for the new member at current rates: four days of lodging and per diems at a cost of \$640.00 (lodging \$376, per diem \$264), \$588 for parking, and an average travel distance of 416 miles at a cost of \$241.33 per meeting for the nine meetings currently held each year. The average assumed travel distance of 416 miles was calculated based on the average distance to the State Board

of Elections' office from the following three locations: the valley region's Winchester City in the valley region, Accomack County in the eastern region, and Bristol City in the southwestern region of the Commonwealth. Actual travel costs depend on the distance travelled by an individual member.

Due to the bill's delayed effective date of January 1, 2020, additional costs for the new Board member would be incurred for one-half of fiscal year 2020 and annually thereafter.

**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: 1/21/2019