

## Department of Planning and Budget 2018 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB136

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

**2. Patron:**    Howell

**3. Committee:** Privileges and Elections

**4. Title:**    Absentee voting; no-excuse in-person available 21 days prior to election.

**5. 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.

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

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

**8. Fiscal Implications:** This bill would require an update to the Virginia Election and Registration Information System (VERIS) to establish a new reason code (category) to identify voters who vote in-person within 21 days of an election. The agency would also have to update absentee forms, reports, and other VERIS functionality to accommodate the modified reason code. The Department of Elections (ELECT) estimates the cost of these updates to be \$4,700: \$2,500 for changes to VERIS and \$2,200 for changes to forms, web materials, and guidance documents.

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

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

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** This bill is similar or identical to HB 733 and SB 602.

Date: 1/29/2018