

Department of Planning and Budget 2019 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB1571

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

2. Patron: Lewis

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Electronic voter registration; application by electronic means; U.S. Department of Defense-issued.

5. Summary: Provides that, pursuant to an agreement between the Department of Elections and the U.S. Department of Defense, applicants registering to vote by electronic means may do so using a Department of Defense-issued identification card.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes – Item 83.

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

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2019	-	-	-
2020	\$780,000	-	General Fund
2021	-	-	-
2022	-	-	-
2023	-	-	-
2024	-	-	-
2025	-	-	-

8. Fiscal Implications: The bill requires the Department of Elections (ELECT) to enter into an agreement with the U.S. Department of Defense to facilitate voter registration by electronic means for military personnel by using a Department of Defense-issued identification card to validate voter information from the Department of Defense and the applicant’s signature obtained by the Department of Defense for registration purposes. ELECT does not currently know if the required information is available in the Department of Defense records or if ELECT will be allowed to access the information required. The bill would require a new category of voters to be created within the statewide Virginia Election and Registration Information System (VERIS) and new processes to track these individuals and ensure the accuracy of applicants that are registering with a Department of Defense-issued identification card.

ELECT would be required to verify that the unique identifier, date of birth, and social security number provided by the applicant match the information contained in the

Department of Defense records. This process would require ELECT to modify VERIS to create a new category of voters and include the following at a minimum, at a one-time estimated cost of \$780,000:

- Change the voter registration module communicate with software that talks to the Department of Defense systems
- Add a new type of registration category (current registration categories are active, inactive, or cancelled)
- Modify all reports in VERIS to accommodate the new registration type
- Develop new reports to meet the needs of locals and the state to identify the pending registrations
- Modify the electronic poll book system to accommodate the new registration type
- Develop correspondence in VERIS that is generated when a voter falls into this new category
- Develop software so that VERIS can talk to the Department of Defense and verify a digital copy of the applicant's signature on record with the Department of Defense with the signature on the application.

ELECT expects the required changes could be accomplished utilizing three contractors with an average hourly salary of \$130 per hour for 2,000 hours each for a total cost of \$780,000 over a 12 to 15 month period to complete VERIS modifications. The bill would add a significant unexpected workload to the team that ELECT currently has in place to complete other VERIS enhancements and updates.

However, if the changes required by this bill are allowed to be planned and incorporated into ELECT's existing VERIS modernization project timeline, the fiscal impact would be expected to be reduced. The agency anticipates any major changes to VERIS would have to be planned prior to July 1, 2019, as ELECT is in the process of approving final modifications with its current appropriation for system enhancements.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.