

## Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB235

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

**2. Patron:** Cole, J.G.

**3. Committee:** Privileges and Elections

**4. Title:** Voter registration; automatic voter registration.

**5. Summary:** Provides for the automatic electronic transmission by the Department of Motor Vehicles to the Department of Elections of certain information for any person coming into an office of the Department of Motor Vehicles or accessing its website in order to (i) apply for, replace, or renew a driver's license; (ii) apply for, replace, or renew a special identification card; or (iii) change an address on an existing driver's license or special identification card if the person indicates that he is a United States citizen and is 17 years of age or older and, at the time of the transaction, does not decline to have his information transmitted to the Department of Elections for voter registration purposes. The option to decline to have his information so transmitted shall be presented at the time of one of the specified transactions with the Department of Motor Vehicles and shall be accompanied by a warning that intentionally making a materially false statement during the transaction is punishable under Virginia law as a felony. Upon receipt of the information collected to ensure that the person meets all voter registration eligibility requirements, the Department of Elections is required to determine whether the person is already registered to vote. If the person is not already registered to vote, the Department of Elections is required to transmit the information to the appropriate general registrar. The bill repeals the requirement that the Department of Motor Vehicles offer, accept, receive, and send voter registration applications.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes; Item 86.

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

**7a. Expenditure Impact for the Department of Elections:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2020	-	-	
2021	\$143,000	-	GF
2022	-	-	

**8. Fiscal Implications:** This bill would require the Department of Elections (ELECT) to modify the Virginia Election and Registration Information System (VERIS) and supporting systems to facilitate automatic voter registration. ELECT estimates one-time costs of \$143,000 to hire contractors to make required changes, based on an estimated 1,100 hours at an average cost of \$130 per hour. ELECT currently has limited capacity to absorb the

additional workload with its current staffing. Anticipated systems updates include, but are not limited, to web services (update validation, language, and Citizens Portal); changing third-party API registrations, and changes to VERIS (hoppers and batch reports to accommodate any changes to the data received).

According to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), the proposed legislation is not expected to result in a significant expenditure increase for the agency. Making the appropriate programming changes to DMV's information systems is estimated to cost \$41,685 and take 700 staff hours to complete. The staff hours required to implement the bill are expected to be accomplished during the normal work schedules for DMV employees, given current workloads. DMV would be able to absorb this cost within its existing resources assuming other legislative proposals with fiscal impacts to DMV are not passed. DMV's current fiscal outlook precludes funding the cumulative burden of implementing the programming and staffing requirements of multiple pieces of legislation without improved revenue streams.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Elections, Department of Motor Vehicles, local general registrars, and localities.

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

**11. Other Comments:** This bill is a companion to SB219.

Date: 2/7/2020