

## Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB666-E

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

**2. Patron:** Boysko**3. Committee:** Privileges and Elections**4. Title:** Voter registration; notification of denial.

**5. Summary:** Requires notice of a denial of an application for voter registration to be provided by the general registrar to the applicant within five days of the denial. Voter registration applications shall request the applicant provide his telephone number and email address and all the applicant to indicate a preferred method of communication. Notices of application denial shall be given in writing and in whatever form selected by the applicant on the registration application. The bill requires the registration application to request that the applicant provide his telephone number and email address. If the general registrar is able to reach the applicant by telephone, corrections may be made by the applicant by telephone. The bill contains technical amendments.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes; Item 86.**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** See Item 8.**7a. Expenditure Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2020	-	
2021	\$123,500	GF
2022	-	

**8. Fiscal Implications:** The engrossed version of the bill provides that voter registration applicants may indicate a preferred method of communication on the application, which shall be used, in addition to a notice in writing, by the general registrar to notify an applicant of the denial of an application within five days of the denial. According to the Department of Elections (ELECT), modifications to the Virginia Election and Registration Information System (VERIS) and other supporting systems would be needed to allow a preferred method of communication to be identified in the registration process. ELECT's preliminary estimate of the one-time cost to make the required changes is \$123,500 based on an estimated 950 hours at \$130 per hour for contractors. ELECT currently has limited capacity to absorb the additional workload with its current staffing levels. Anticipated systems changes include, but are not limited to, changes to the paper and online registration processes and registration

records to add the designation of a preferred means of communication, changes to the correspondence module to identify those who indicated a preferred means of communication other than mail, and creating reports to catalog voters by preference of communication.

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) would also need to add an additional question to its online, in-person, and on-demand print voter applications in order to capture the required information. However, this is not expected to result in a significant expenditure increase for the agency. According to DMV, making the appropriate changes to its information systems to implement the bill's provisions is estimated to cost \$20,723 and require 428 hours. 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.

Any potential impact to local general registrars is indeterminate.

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

- 10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

- 11. Other Comments:** This statement has been updated to include information regarding the expected impact to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Date: 2/10/2020