

Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB696

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: Mason

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Absentee voting; no excuse required when voting in person.

5. Summary: Allows any registered voter to vote early 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 retains the current provisions for voting with an absentee ballot by mail during the entire absentee voting period or in person prior to the twenty-first day prior to the election, including the application requirement and the list of statutory reasons for absentee voting.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: No state fiscal impact.

8. Fiscal Implications: The proposed legislation is not expected to have a state fiscal impact.

The bill changes the date voters may begin to vote early in person without an excuse from the second Saturday immediately preceding any election to the twenty-first day prior to an election. This change is not expected to have a fiscal impact on the Department of Elections, as similar procedures implemented pursuant to Chapters 668 and 669 of the 2019 Acts of Assembly will be capable of meeting the proposed legislation's requirements. Chapters 668 and 669 of the 2019 Acts of Assembly allow no-excuse in-person voting during the period beginning the second Saturday immediately preceding any election, effective with the general election on November 3, 2020.

Localities are responsible for conducting elections, including absentee voting by mail or in-person voting, and would be responsible for any potential impact of changes necessary to facilitate the proposed voting process.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 1/14/2020