

## Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB856-E

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

**2. Patron:** Ebbin

**3. Committee:** Privileges and Elections

**4. Title:** State Board of Elections; increasing membership and terms; Commissioner of Elections; role and eligibility; report.

**5. Summary:** Increases the membership of the State Board of Elections from three members to five members, with initial staggering of terms. Representation is given to each of the political parties having the highest and next highest number of votes in the Commonwealth at the preceding gubernatorial election, with three Board members being of the party of the Governor. The bill provides that a Commissioner of Elections, who acts as the principal administrative officer of the Department of Elections, shall be appointed by the Governor. Persons engaging in certain partisan activities, persons related to persons engaging in certain partisan activities, and persons related to members of the State Board are prohibited from serving as the Commissioner of Elections. The provisions of the bill shall become effective January 1, 2021.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** See Item 8.

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

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

The bill would increase membership of the State Board of Elections (the Board) from three to five members. The Department of Elections estimates additional annual costs of \$3,400 for one additional Board member. This estimate is based on the following annual cost for the new member at current rates: four days of lodging and per diems at a cost of \$640.00 (lodging \$376, per diem \$264), \$588 for parking, and an average travel distance of 416 miles at a cost of \$241.33 per meeting for the nine meetings currently held each year. The average assumed travel distance of 416 miles was calculated based on the average distance to the State Board of Elections’ office from the following three locations: the valley region’s Winchester City in the valley region, Accomack County in the eastern region, and Bristol

City in the southwestern region of the Commonwealth. Actual travel costs depend on the distance traveled by an individual member.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** The Department of Elections and State Board of Elections

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

**11. Other Comments:** This bill is a companion to HB236.

Date: 2/6/2020