

Department of Planning and Budget 2021 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB2125

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

2. Patron: Lopez

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Voter registration; preregistration for persons 16 years of age or older.

5. Summary: Permits a person who is otherwise qualified to register to vote and is 16 years of age or older, but who will not be 18 years of age on or before the day of the next general election, to preregister to vote. The preregistration does not entitle such person to vote in any election except as already permitted by law. The bill requires the Department of Elections to maintain a record of all preregistered voters in the Virginia voter registration system, which shall automatically register a person who is preregistered upon that person reaching 18 years of age or becoming eligible for advance registration as already permitted by law, whichever comes first. The bill requires the Department to provide to the general registrars voter confirmation documents for such voters.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes; Item 86.

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

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2021	\$58,500	GF
2021	\$15,483	NGF
2022	-	GF
2022	-	NGF

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill provides that individuals who are 16 or older and otherwise qualified to vote may preregister to vote. The Department of Elections would then automatically register a person to vote who has completed this preregistration process once they become eligible for registration or when they turn 18, whichever date comes first.

Department of Elections:

The legislation would require the Department of Elections (ELECT) to modify the Virginia Election and Registration Information System (VERIS) in order to accept and pre-register persons at 16 years of age automatically. Once the age of 18 is achieved or the individual turn 18 prior to the next election, the individual would be included in the electronic poll book.

ELECT's preliminary estimate of the one-time cost to make the required changes is \$58,500 based on an estimated 450 hours at \$130.00 per hour provided by 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, Web Service setup (change to remove "required" fields, add any new fields, make any needed changes to the transformation account for new fields, add or change any process required as the registration comes in, and changes to VERIS (hoppers and batch reports to accommodate any changes to the data received). ELECT may have to also develop or modify reports used by General Registrars and others.

Department of Motor Vehicles:

The bill will require the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to make numerous changes to its current in-person and by-mail voter registration motor voter process. The bill will have no effect on online motor voter transactions, since online accounts require PINs that are only issued to individuals aged 18 and older. For customers conducting in-person or mail-in motor voter eligible transactions, a number of system changes would be required to enable voter registration application questions to be asked to an individual who is 16 years old and to incorporate any changes to the application process for customers who are pre-registering.

Implementation will require system programming changes costing \$15,483. The 260 staff hours required can be accomplished during the normal work schedules for DMV employees, given current workloads.

- 9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Virginia Department of Elections, State Board of Elections, General Registrars, localities, and the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 1/19/2021