

Department of Planning and Budget

2021 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB2125-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:** 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. The bill has a delayed effective date of October 1, 2022.

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

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

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 Department of Elections (ELECT) is currently in the process of procuring a new voter registration system for Virginia, which could incorporate the required changes with minimal impact. It is expected that the required changes could be implemented by the bill's delayed effective date of October 1, 2022, assuming no significant issues developed that would affect the project's current overall timeline.

However, it is anticipated that the new and old system will run in parallel operations to reduce risk and ensure the new system performs as expected. This parallel operation of the systems may last up to a year before the old system is disabled.

If ELECT had to make the modifications required for this bill prior to changing over to the new voter registration system, the preliminary estimate of one-time costs to make the required changes to the existing system 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: 2/5/2021