

## Department of Planning and Budget 2021 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB1246

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

**2. Patron:** Deeds

**3. Committee:** Privileges and Elections

**4. Title:** Absentee voting; mandatory processing of returned absentee ballots before election day.

**5. Summary:** Requires certain actions to be taken to process absentee ballots that are returned by mail before election day. The general registrar is required to examine the ballot envelopes to verify completion of the required voter affirmation; mark the pollbook, or the absentee voter applicant list if the pollbook is not available, that the voter has voted; and open the sealed ballot envelopes and insert the ballots in optical scan counting equipment or other secure ballot container without initiating any ballot count totals. Under current law, it is only required that the general registrar undertake at least one such activity before election day. To facilitate this preprocessing, the bill requires a central absentee voter precinct to be established in the office of the general registrar. Additional central absentee voter precincts may be established at the discretion of the governing body.

**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.

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

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

**11. Other Comments:** None.

Date: 1/19/2021