

## Department of Planning and Budget 2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB177

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

**2. Patron:**        Bloxom

**3. Committee:** Privileges and Elections

**4. Title:**         Absentee voting; witness requirement for absentee ballots.

**5. Summary:** Makes optional the current absentee ballot witness signature requirement by giving the voter the option to provide the voter's date of birth and either the last 4 digits of the voter's social security number or an assigned unique identifier in lieu of a witness signature. Requires the State Board of Elections to promulgate regulations for providing a unique identifier to any qualified voter who lacks a social security number. The bill clarifies that verification of the required voter affirmation on absentee ballots by the general registrar includes matching any date of birth and last four digits of the social security number or assigned unique identifier provided as part of the voter affirmation against the information in the voter's registration record.

**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, and localities (General Registrars and Electoral Boards).

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

**11. Other Comments:** HB177-S1 is identical to SB273-S1.

Date: 3/3/2022