

Department of Planning and Budget

2006 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number SB526E

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

2. Patron Newman

3. Committee Privileges and Elections

4. Title Constitutional amendment (voter referendum); marriage

5. Summary/Purpose: Provides for a referendum at the November 2006 election on approval of a proposed constitutional amendment to define marriage. The proposed amendment provides that "only a union between one man and one woman may be a marriage valid in or recognized by this Commonwealth and its political subdivisions." The proposed amendment also prohibits the Commonwealth and its political subdivisions from creating or recognizing "a legal status for relationships of unmarried individuals that intends to approximate the design, qualities, significance, or effects of marriage." Further, the proposed amendment prohibits the Commonwealth or its political subdivisions from creating or recognizing "another union, partnership, or other legal status to which is assigned the rights, benefits, obligations, qualities, or effects of marriage."

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are: One time

6a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2006-07	\$200,000	0.0	General Fund

7. Budget amendment necessary: Yes, Item 85.

8. Fiscal implications: A constitutional amendment to the voters will have a fiscal impact on the State Board of Elections (SBE) of at least \$200,000 whenever a constitutional amendment or other statewide issue is put on the ballot. The cost for the advertising required by §§ 30-19.9 and 30-19.10 is currently estimated at \$200,000 for the first such statewide constitutional amendment or ballot issue, and approximately \$66,000, for each additional amendment or ballot issue to be voted at the same election. Most of this cost is for the required newspaper advertising of the official explanations, which include the full text of the section being amended. SBE also incurs costs for the printing and shipping of brochures and posters containing the explanations and texts. The brochures are sent to every local registrar's office, and to anyone requesting copies. The posters are displayed in the registrars' offices and in every polling place.

Since the advertising is a one-time cost that cannot be predicted at the time the agency is preparing its budget package in the summer and fall (as we never know how many amendments

or issues the General Assembly will put on the ballot the next year), the advertising must be funded through a budget amendment.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: State Board of Elections, local electoral boards and registrars

10. Technical amendment necessary: No

11. Other comments: No

Date: 2/7/06 mtb

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cc: Secretary of Administration