

Department of Planning and Budget 2007 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB2734

House of Origin ☒ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed

Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron Englin

3. Committee Privileges and Elections

4. Title Election procedures; voting equipment requirements; recount procedures.

5. Summary/Purpose: Requires localities to provide voting equipment accessible to disabled voters and, when required by the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the capacity for alternative languages. Repeals outdated authorization for mechanical voting devices and outdated references to punchcards and mechanical voting devices.

6. No Fiscal Impact

7. Budget amendment necessary: No

8. Fiscal implications: There are no fiscal impacts for the Commonwealth. Any impacts would be a local responsibility. For voters with a disability the bill requires at least one accessible piece of voting equipment to be used in state and local elections. Currently, the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requires accessible equipment to be used only in federal elections but does not address state and local elections. There is no provision that allows for disabled and elderly voters to have the access to the same equipment when voting in state and local elections as they do for federal elections.

The State Board of Elections (SBE) has indicated that localities are preparing to budget costs to program the available equipment and have it in place for local elections, although not currently required.

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

10. Technical amendment necessary: No

11. Other comments: No

Date: 1/23/07 mtb

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c: Secretary of Administration