

Department of Planning and Budget

2010 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB690

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

2. Patron: Obenshain

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: **Voter registration drives; payment or receipt of compensation; penalty.**

5. Summary: Provides that voter registration drives, defined as a coordinated effort by two or more individuals to provide assistance to 1,000 or more members of the general public in completing and submitting voter applications, must register with the State Board of Elections and fulfill the training requirements established by the State Board. The State Board shall maintain a list of all voter registration drives that have been registered and shall post this list on its website. The bill also provides that a person assisting an applicant with the completion and return of a voter registration application shall not disclose or copy the day and month of the applicant's birth, except as authorized by law. The bill also makes it a Class 1 misdemeanor to influence a person to register to vote by bribery or force and makes it a Class 1 misdemeanor to pay or receive compensation on a fee-per-signature basis or on a basis related to the number of signatures obtained for circulating election-related petitions or completing and submitting voter registration applications.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Indeterminate fiscal impact

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

8. Fiscal Implications: While there is no fiscal impact to State Board of Elections (SBE), the bill does result in a Class 1 misdemeanor which carries a fiscal impact to the Department of Corrections. Anyone convicted of a Class 1 misdemeanor is subject to a sentence of up to 12 months in jail. There is not enough information available to reliably estimate how many additional inmates in jail could result from this proposal. Any increase in jail population will increase costs to the state. The Commonwealth presently pays the localities \$8.00 a day for each misdemeanant or otherwise local responsible prisoner held in a jail. It also funds most of the jails' operating costs, e.g. correctional officers. The state's share of these costs on a per prisoner, per day basis varies from locality to locality. However, according to the Compensation Board's most recent Jail Cost Report (November 2009), the estimated total state support for local jails averaged \$32.66 per inmate, per day in FY 2008.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: State Board of Elections, Department of Corrections, Compensation Board

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None

Date: 1/29/2010 dpb

Document: <http://dpb.virginia.gov/efis/fistemplate.doc>