

Department of Planning and Budget 2011 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB1030

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: Barker

3. Committee: Finance

4. Title: Elections; costs of primaries.

5. Summary: Provides that the state will reimburse the localities for the costs of statewide and federal elections as funded by the general appropriation act.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No. Line amendment proposed by the Senate makes this bill effective as of January 1, 2013.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary, See Item 8

8. Fiscal Implications: Current law requires localities to pay the costs of elections (§ 24.2-600) and provides for state reimbursement only for presidential primary elections. (§ 24.2-545 (F)). While localities will benefit greatly from the passage of this legislation, the cost allocation to the state could impair the state's ability to support local operations and provide for other needs.

The State Board of Elections used actual figures from 2008 to compute the approximate range of expenses this bill would impose. In 2008, \$2.3 million was appropriated and expended to reimburse local costs for the presidential primaries that year. The actual requests from the localities exceeded \$3.0 million.

It is expected that primaries for U.S. Senate and statewide offices could have comparable costs. State reimbursement could further increase the use of primary elections. In 2008, there were 5 primaries for the U.S. House and in 2006 there were 3 primaries for federal legislative office.

Assuming 4 covered primaries a year, excluding presidential primaries already reimbursed, an annual impact in the range of \$200,000 to \$4.0 million appears possible. The wide range is based upon the fact that it is difficult to estimate the number of primaries held per year per party.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: State Board of Elections (SBE), local government(s)

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None

Date: 1/27/2011