

Department of Planning and Budget 2011 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB949

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: Howell

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Elections; absentee voting.

5. Summary: Provides that qualified voters may vote absentee in person without providing an excuse or reason for not being able to vote in person on election day. The bill retains the present statutory list of specific reasons entitling a voter to cast an absentee ballot for those persons who vote absentee by mail.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 79, SB 800

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: The passage of this bill would allow voters to vote absentee in-person without an excuse. Absentee voting by mail remains available with qualified reasons as specified by statute.

Per the State Board of Elections, full implementation would require the agency to: (1) Revise the Virginia state absentee ballot application form, instructions, voter education and guidance documents, and (2) Modify the statewide election management system (VERIS). Preliminary estimates for first year initial implementation are approximately \$13,000.

The bill could also have an impact on localities as a result of increased demand for in person absentee voting requiring additional staff and facilities. Conversely, this increased demand before Election Day could be offset by lower demand on Election Day.

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: 2/1/2011