

Department of Planning and Budget 2012 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB61

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

2. Patron: Cole

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Elections; solicitation of absentee ballot applications or ballots

5. Summary: Makes it unlawful for anyone to solicit, in person, absentee ballot applications or ballots from individuals in any hospital, nursing home, or assisted living facility. The prohibition does not apply to family members or to general or assistant registrars, electoral board members, or their staffs. A violation of the section is a Class 1 misdemeanor under § 24.2-1017.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Indeterminate

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill has no fiscal impact on State Board of Election (SBE) because SBE does not generally assist voters in any hospital, nursing home or assisted living facility. SBE indicates impact on its operations.

Although insufficient data exists to determine the fiscal impact due to this legislation, the legislation could result in an increase in the jail population since Class 1 misdemeanor outcomes result in sentences of up to 12 months in jail (and a fine up to \$2,500). Any increase in jail population will increase costs to the state. The Commonwealth presently pays the localities \$4.00 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 FY2010 Jail Cost Report (November 1, 2011), the estimated total state support for local and regional jails averaged \$29.98 per state inmate, per day in FY 2010.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: State Board of Election (SBE),
Compensation Board

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: N/A

Date: 1/17/2012

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