

## Department of Planning and Budget 2012 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB62

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

**2. Patron:** Stanley

**3. Committee:** Privileges and Elections

**4. Title:** Primary elections; adds party affiliation to information an applicant to provide when registering

**5. Summary:** Adds party affiliation to the information that an applicant is asked to provide when registering to vote. The applicant may indicate that he is an independent. Voters registered prior to January 1, 2013, will be designated as independent unless they provide a political party designation in writing to the general registrar. Voters may change their party affiliation or independent status by written notice at any time before the registration records are closed prior to an election. The state party chairman of each political party must notify the State Board of Elections by January 31 of each year of the party rules governing who may participate in the party primary.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, Item 87, SB 30

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary

**7a. Expenditure Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2012	0		
2013	\$790,000	0	General
2014	\$600,000	0	General
2015	TBD		
2016	TBD		
2017	TBD		
2018	TBD		

**8. Fiscal Implications:** State Board of Elections (SBE) indicates that the implementation and ongoing expenses of registration by political party will have an impact. There will be \$190,000 in onetime costs. First, significant modifications to Virginia’s statewide voter registration system (VERIS) may need to be made, amounting to up to \$80,000 for FY 2013. However, SBE is still researching whether that cost may be avoided. SBE estimates that approximately \$25,000 will be needed to develop pollbook production processes that will account for party registration as well as for an informational campaign to inform voters of the option to register by political party. There will be a cost of \$45,000 for training costs to locality registrars on poll book procedures and implementation of the law and informational campaign to voters in FY 2013.

The redesign of the voter registration application and printing of new voter registration applications would have a fiscal impact of \$40,000.

SBE states that the largest cost associated with the bill will be the mailing of new voter cards to voters after the party identification is added to their voter record. The legislation requires registrars to mail a new vote registration card when this happens. SBE estimates the costs of printing and mailing to be approximately \$600,000 in FY 2013 and FY 2014. SBE indicates that the funds will be needed in FY 2013 despite the fact that the bill does not impact until January 1, 2013. Additional expenses will be incurred by SBE in later fiscal years that have yet to be determined, but the bulk of the changes will happen within the first two years of implementation.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** SBE and local general registrar offices.

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** N/A

**Date:** 1/31/2012