

Department of Planning and Budget 2013 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1592

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

2. Patron: Ware, O.

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Elections; early voting.

5. Summary: Provides that any registered voter qualified to vote in the election may vote in person from 19 to three days before the election at specified times and at the sites provided in the locality. The provisions for absentee voting remain in effect except that the provisions for in-person absentee voting are superseded by the early voting process during the early voting period.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes. Item 87

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Indeterminate

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2014	\$80,000	0	GF

8. Fiscal Implications: The State Board of Elections (SBE) indicates that recent reports document that early voting entails significant added administrative costs without material savings on largely fixed Election Day costs. Early voting requires that the state and local election framework must be prepared to serve unknown numbers of voters for three weeks rather than one day.

SBE estimates the current first year cost for the agency to implement this legislation at \$80, 000, consisting of a major Virginia Election and Registration Information System (VERIS) change. This change consists of costs to revise, translate, and replace the absentee application forms and update voter education and guidance documents to address early voting can be absorbed by the agency. In 2011, the actual fiscal impact of implementation costs to SBE for similar legislation was \$45,000. SBE estimates that the current cost will be higher because these kinds of changes affecting VERIS absentee functions must be classified as major changes which cost \$80,000.

Local governments will incur significant costs for (1) required expanded operating hours—three additional evening hours for four days and an additional third Saturday preceding most elections; and (2) an increase in the demand for in person voting in the general registrar's office starting 19 days before the election when the requirement for an excuse to

vote absentee would be lifted. These added costs would vary by locality and be similar to, but greater than, no excuse in person absentee voting during the early voting period with the expanded hours and additional Saturday. Localities opting to provide additional satellite locations to meet the local demand would incur costs estimated at \$2,000 per satellite with an additional start up cost of \$29,000.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: State Board of Elections, localities

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: n/a

11. Other Comments: None

Date: 1/11/13

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