

## Department of Planning and Budget 2013 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB2119

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

**2. Patron:** Spruill

**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 10 to three days before the election, or eight to three days before a special election, at the office of the general registrar or secretary of the electoral board and other approved locations. The provisions for absentee voting remain in effect except that the provisions for in-person absentee voting are superseded by the early voting process during the early voting period. The bill takes effect January 1, 2014.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes. Item 87

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Indeterminate. See Item 8

**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) estimates a one-time cost of \$80,000 to implement this legislation at \$80,000. This estimate consists of a major change to the Virginia voter registration system (VERIS). 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 SBE.

In 2011, the actual fiscal impact of implementation costs to SBE for legislation similarly affecting absentee functions was \$45,000. SBE estimates that the current cost will be higher because these kinds of changes impacting VERIS 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 before most elections; and (2) an increase in the demand for in person voting in the general registrar's office starting 10 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:** 1/21/13

**Document:** G:\2013 FIS's\SBE\HB2119.DOC

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