

Department of Planning and Budget 2014 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB6

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: Ware, R.L.

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Primary elections; cost and reimbursement to localities.

5. Summary: Elections; costs of primaries; reimbursement to localities. Provides that each county and city conducting a primary election at the direction of the Commonwealth shall be reimbursed in full for the costs of the primary election by the proper political party committee. The bill also shifts the costs of a presidential primary election from the Commonwealth to the proper political party committee.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: No State fiscal impact.

8. Fiscal Implications: Currently the localities are responsible for paying for most primaries. The passage of this bill would completely allay this cost for the localities by shifting it to political parties. In regards to state funds, the Commonwealth currently pays for presidential primaries in accordance with state law. The Commonwealth allotted \$2,500,000 for both the 2004 and 2008 Presidential Primary Elections. It is important to note that the actual costs of the primaries exceeded the amount of funds allotted, and this shortfall was absorbed by the localities (\$213,062.13 in 2004 and \$896,082.00 in 2008). To avoid another shortfall in 2012, SBE requested and was granted an allotment of \$3,000,000. The amount requested in future years is likely to rise as the costs of primaries increase due to population growth and inflation. The passage of HB6 would therefore save the Commonwealth ~\$3,200,000 in 2016 and ~\$3,500,000 in 2020.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments:

Date: 1/15/14

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