

Department of Planning and Budget 2015 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1858

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

2. Patron: Robinson

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Absentee voting; persons primarily and personally responsible for the care of a child.

5. Summary: Adds to the list of persons eligible to vote absentee those persons who are unable to go to the polls on the day of the election because they are primarily and personally responsible for the care of a child under the age of five years who is cared for in the home.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes – Item 83.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary – see Item 8.

Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2015	\$0	0.00	-
2016	\$8,814	0.00	GF
2017	\$0	0.00	-
2018	\$0	0.00	-
2019	\$0	0.00	-
2020	\$0	0.00	-
2021	\$0	0.00	-

8. Fiscal Implications: According to the Department of Elections, this bill would require an update to the Virginia Election and Registration Information System (VERIS) to establish a new reason code (category) to identify voters who are primarily and personally responsible for the care of a child to vote absentee, updates to absentee forms, reports, and other VERIS functionality to accommodate the new reason code (category). The Department estimates the cost to be \$2,500 for changes to VERIS; \$2,200 for changes to forms, web materials, and guidance documents; and \$4,114 to print and distribute new forms. Funding for these changes are not currently built into the Department's approved contracts and projects; therefore, this legislation would require a budget amendment in the amount of \$8,814 in fiscal year 2016 only.

Localities may also experience an increase in the total cost of processing the absentee ballots at the local registrar's office. Mailing an absentee ballot costs at least \$1.75 with postage plus the staff time needed to review ballot requests. In addition, staff time would increase for processing in-person absentee voting.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Elections and localities.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.

c: Secretary of Administration