

Department of Planning and Budget 2015 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB677

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

2. Patron: Howell

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Absentee voting; persons eligible to vote absentee in person.

5. Summary: Allows qualified voters to vote absentee in person without providing an excuse for not being able to vote in person on election day. The bill retains the statutory list of specific reasons allowing a voter to cast an absentee ballot by mail.

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	\$4,700	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, the primary fiscal impact of this legislation would be to the localities responsible for administering absentee voting, providing staff and facilities for in person absentee voting. The cost to the localities as a result of this legislation is not known. Opposing prior bills, one large urban locality has estimated the start-up cost of expanded in person absentee voting for the general registrar office at \$1.00 per voter, and a daily added cost of \$.37 per voter; providing satellite locations would add further costs depending on the availability of government facilities.

For the Department of Elections, the fiscal impact includes the cost to change the Virginia Election and Registration Information System (\$2,500), and changes to forms, web materials, and guidance documents (\$2,200). These costs are not built into the recently approved contracts and projects; therefore, these developments would result in a fiscal impact for the agency. Unlike bills that would expand absentee voting by mail, this bill would not entail additional printing costs for the full four page application. For in-person absentee voting, a two-page version provided electronically is utilized.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: This legislation is identical to HB1394 (Herring), HB1992 (Morrissey), and SB954 (Dance).