

Department of Planning and Budget

2015 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB827

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

2. Patron: Miller

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Voting systems; use of direct recording electronic machines.

5. Summary: Prohibits the use of direct recording electronic (DRE) machines in elections on and after July 1, 2016, except for the express purpose of providing accessible voting equipment as required by law. The bill allows the modification of previously acquired DREs for the express purpose of providing accessible voting equipment.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: House Bill 1400/Senate Bill 800, includes \$28.0 million in bond proceeds of the Virginia Public Building Authority to replace legacy equipment statewide in fiscal year 2016 (Item C- 46.30). Budget bill language authorizes the Department of Elections to establish and administer a program in fiscal year 2016 to purchase and grant to certain localities qualifying voting equipment with proceeds of bonds authorized in Item C-46.30 of House Bill 1400/Senate Bill 800. All localities are required to replace all of the direct recording electronic machines and outdated ballot scanners with new equipment from the Department of Elections no later than August 1, 2015 (Item 83, H). This one-time program will allow local governments to bring all voting equipment into compliance with the policies and procedures approved by the State Board of Elections. Localities that will be receiving the new equipment are required to test and certify the new voting equipment for use in the November 2015 elections.

A separate budget amendment included in House Bill 1400/Senate Bill 800 provides \$1.6 million general fund appropriation in fiscal year 2016 to the Department of Elections to reimburse localities that have already replaced their voting equipment. This funding is the first of three annual payments equal to one-third of the amount required to reimburse certain localities for the cost of qualifying voting equipment purchased prior to January 1, 2015. According to the Department of Elections, 11 localities have already replaced their legacy equipment.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: This legislation is a companion to HB 2142 (Yancey).

c: Secretary of Administration