

## Department of Planning and Budget 2016 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB308

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

**2. Patron:** Morris

**3. Committee:** General Laws

**4. Title:** Virginia Freedom of Information Act; use of government email accounts required.

**5. Summary:** This bill requires that any person elected, reelected, appointed or reappointed to any public body not excepted from FOIA use only official government-provided email accounts to conduct public business. However, if a public officer, appointee, or employee inadvertently uses a nongovernment email account to conduct public business, then the email and email address shall be forwarded to the appropriate official for retention as designated by the public body. The bill contains a technical amendment.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Costs are minimal so impacted agencies can absorb the costs. See Item 8.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** FISCAL IMPACT ESTIMATES ARE NOT AVAILABLE

**8. Fiscal Implications:** The bill uses the word “inadvertently,” which implies unintentional use, which would suggest that most, if not all public officers, appointees, or employees would need to have email accounts if they do not already have them. Generally, appointed board members do not have a government email account unless they are also a state employee. Many boards across the state have citizen members. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) estimates that this could cost them \$3,692 per year to provide additional email accounts. According to the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) rate sheet, each additional e-mail address would cost \$14.65 per month or \$175.80 per year. The number of additional mailboxes that would be required statewide is unknown.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** All public bodies.

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** None