

Department of Planning and Budget 2016 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB531

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: Murphy

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Absentee voting; no-excuse in-person available 21 days prior to election.

5. Summary: Allows for any registered voter to vote by absentee ballot in person in any election in which he is qualified to vote without providing a reason or making prior application for an absentee ballot. The bill makes absentee voting in person available beginning the twenty-first day prior to the election and ending at 5:00 p.m. on the Saturday immediately preceding the election. The bill retains the current provisions for voting an absentee ballot by mail, including the application requirement and the list of statutory reasons.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary – See Item 8

8. Fiscal Implications: According to the Department of Elections (ELECT), the state fiscal impact of the proposed legislation would include \$2,500 to implement one-time minor configuration changes to the Virginia Election and Registration Information System (VERIS) and \$2,200 to update forms, web materials, and guidance documents. An additional printing cost for the full 4 page application is not required because a two page electronic version is used for in-person absentee voting. This impact can be absorbed within existing agency resources.

As stand-alone legislation, the Department of Elections considers implementation of this bill as “routine,” and does not require additional funding. The Department of Elections will review all electoral legislation likely to be enacted prior to the passage by each house. If the aggregate number of “routine” bills likely to pass either house is unusually large, it is possible that the Department of Elections will require additional resources. If so, the Department of Elections will identify the costs at that time.

The proposed legislation is also expected to have a fiscal impact to the localities for administering absentee voting, providing staff, and facilities for in-person absentee voting; however, the projected local fiscal impact cannot be determined. The exact cost to localities is unknown.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: Companion to SB 603 (Howell)