

Department of Planning and Budget 2016 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB806

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

2. Patron: Lingamfelter

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Primary elections; voter registration by political party.

5. Summary: Adds political party affiliation to the information that an applicant is asked to provide when registering to vote. The applicant may indicate that he is an independent. Voters registered prior to January 1, 2017, will be designated as independent unless they provide a political party affiliation in writing to the general registrar. No more than one change to a voter's party affiliation or independent status on his registration record shall be permitted within a twelve-month period. Voters may change their party affiliation at any time before the registration records are closed prior to an election, except that voters who are designated as independent may change their independent designation to a political party affiliation at any point after registration records are closed prior to a primary election, including on the day of the primary. Only voters who are registered as being affiliated with the political party may participate in that party's primary.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes – Item 86 (Electoral Services).

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

Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2016	\$0	0.00	-
2017	\$117,814	0.00	GF
2018	\$0	0.00	-
2019	\$0	0.00	-
2020	\$0	0.00	-
2021	\$0	0.00	-
2022	\$0	0.00	-

8. Fiscal Implications: According to the Department of Elections (ELECT), the agency would have to implement one-time configuration modifications to the Virginia Election and Registration Information System (VERIS) at a cost of approximately \$80,000. These modifications would allow voters to indicate a political party affiliation. ELECT would also have to edit the election management program as political parties would be given the option of having a closed or open primary. Other costs for implementing the proposed legislation include \$25,000 to develop pollbook production processes that would account for party registration; \$6,500 to change the statewide voter registration database and online voter

registration application; \$2,200 to modify existing forms, guidance documents, and voter education; and \$4,114 to print and distribute forms.

Localities may have recurring costs for mailings due to voters opting to indicate or change the party affiliation on their voter record. Section 24.2-404, Code of Virginia, requires the general registrars to provide confirmation documents for newly registered voters and for notice to registered voters on the system of changes and corrections in their registration records and polling places.

- 9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Elections, electoral boards, general registrars, and localities.
- 10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** On line 32, strike “new voter registration card” and insert “confirmation document”. Chapter 740 of the Acts of Assembly of 2015 requires general registrars to provide voter confirmation documents instead of voter registration cards for newly registered voters and for notice to registered voters on the system of changes and corrections in their registration records and polling places.
- 11. Other Comments:** This bill is similar to SB650 (Cosgrove).