

Department of Planning and Budget

2016 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB899

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: Toscano

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Elections; early voting by persons age 65 or older.

5. Summary: Allows any registered voter age 65 or older to vote early in any election in which he is qualified to vote without providing a reason or making prior application for an absentee ballot. The bill requires that early voting be available beginning the twenty-first day prior to any general election, the seventh day prior to any special election held on a date other than the date of a general election, and the seventh day prior to any primary election and ending at 5:00 p.m. on the Saturday immediately preceding the election. The bill further requires early voting to be available during regular business hours each weekday during the applicable period, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on each Saturday during the applicable period, and from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on each Sunday during the applicable period. The bill does not amend the current provisions for voting absentee, including the application requirement and the list of statutory reasons that allow a registered voter to vote absentee.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary – See Item 8

8. Fiscal Implications: According to the Department of Elections, 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. The impact of this bill 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.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Elections, the electoral board, localities

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: None

11. Other Comments: No