

Department of Planning and Budget

2016 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB937

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

2. Patron: Wilt**3. Committee:** Privileges and Elections**4. Title:** Vote centers; pilot program.

5. Summary: Authorizes the State Board of Elections to establish pilot programs in one or more counties or cities whose plan for participation in the pilot program is unanimously approved by the State Board, and permits them to use vote centers in the June primary elections. The governing body of a county or city applying to participate in the pilot program is required to submit a plan for participation that includes (i) the number of vote center precincts to be established in the county or city and the boundaries of such precincts and (ii) the number of vote centers to be established in each vote center precinct and the location of each such vote center. The bill defines "vote center precinct" to mean the territory established by a county or city pursuant to the pilot program, to be served by one or more vote centers; "vote center" is defined to mean the structure at which any qualified voter who is a resident of the vote center precinct may vote in a June primary election. The bill contains requirements for a minimum number of vote centers based on the number of registered voters in a vote center precinct and the size of the vote center precinct. The Department of Elections is directed to publish a report on the implementation and effectiveness of the pilot program by August 15 of any year in which one or more counties or cities participate in the pilot program. The provisions of the bill expire on December 31, 2020.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes – Item 86 (Electoral Services)**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary – see item 8**7a. Expenditure Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2016	\$0	0	
2017	\$25,000	0	GF
2018	\$0	0	
2019	\$0	0	
2020	\$0	0	
2021	\$0	0	
2022	\$0	0	

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill would require the Department of Elections (ELECT) to make a one-time medium-level change to the Virginia Election and Registration Information System

(VERIS) at a cost of \$25,000. The change would allow the agency to document and produce the different polling locations upon inquiry.

The proposed legislation may create the need for additional State Board of Elections meetings beyond the budgeted amount in order to promulgate guidelines and approved submitted locality plans. In addition, the legislation creates an additional reporting requirement by the agency. While these costs can currently be absorbed by the agency, if other pending legislation that contains additional reporting requirements or regulatory development by the agency is passed, the cumulative impact will require ELECT to obtain additional resources in order to meet its new requirements.

There are other costs associated with implementing this legislation, including printing and mailing of the voter registration card, giving general notice to affected voters, and fully training election officials. All of these costs will be absorbed by the localities participating in the pilot.

- 9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Elections and localities.
- 10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** Line 18, after “establish”, insert “a” and strike “programs” and insert “program”. This technical amendment clarifies that the State Board of Elections is authorized to establish one pilot program.
- 11. Other Comments:** Revised FIS changes Voter Electronic Registration Information System to Virginia Election and Registration Information System.