

Department of Planning and Budget

2016 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB84

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: Favola

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Absentee voting; postage prepaid on envelope for return of absentee ballot.

5. Summary: Requires the envelope provided to the voter for the return of the absentee ballot to include prepaid postage.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: The proposed legislation is not expected to have a state fiscal impact; however, the primary fiscal impact of this bill would be incurred by localities that do not currently provide return postage to absentee voters. According to the Department of Elections, the top five localities with mail issued absentee ballots in the 2012 November general election could incur additional postage costs ranging from \$6,399 to \$23,481 for the next general election based on the estimated mailing cost of \$0.49 per voter.

Sections 24.2-701 and 24.2-704, Code of Virginia, require the State Board of Elections to provide absentee ballot applications and assistance forms to general registrars, duties that do not extend to ballot return envelopes.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.