

Department of Planning and Budget 2017 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1631

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

2. Patron: Sullivan

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Elections; early voting.

5. Summary: Allows any registered voter 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 removes the current provisions for voting absentee in person but retains those provisions for voting an absentee ballot by mail, including the application requirement and the list of statutory reasons that allow a registered voter to vote absentee by mail.

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, SBE considers implementation of this bill as “routine,” and does not require additional funding. SBE 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 additional resources will be required. If so, SBE will identify the costs at that time.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: Identical to HB2091 and SB1295 is a companion bill.