

Department of Planning and Budget 2017 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1912

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: Yost

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Absentee voting; eligibility of persons granted protective order.

5. Summary: Entitles a person to vote absentee if the person has been granted a protective order issued by or under the authority of any court of competent jurisdiction.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill would require an update to the Virginia Election and Registration Information System (VERIS) to establish a new reason code (category) to identify that voters who have been granted a protective order issued by or under the authority of any court of competent jurisdiction are eligible to vote absentee. The agency would also have to update absentee forms, reports, and other VERIS functionality to accommodate the new reason code. The Department of Elections estimates the cost of these updates to be \$8,814: \$2,500 for changes to VERIS; \$2,200 for changes to forms, web materials, and guidance documents; and \$4,114 to print and distribute new forms.

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.

Localities may also experience an increase in the total cost of processing the absentee ballots at the local registrar’s office, such as increased staff time needed to process in person applicants and to review and issue ballots in response to applications submitted other than in person.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: January 16, 2017
File: HB1912