

Department of Planning and Budget 2017 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB2315

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

2. Patron: Freitas

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Instant runoff voting.

5. Summary: Provides for instant runoff voting in elections for statewide offices, the United States Senate, the United States House of Representatives, and the General Assembly. With instant runoff voting, voters rank the candidates for each office in order of choice, and only the candidate receiving a majority of the votes for such office is declared the winner. Ballots are initially counted as one vote for the first-choice candidate on the ballot; if no candidate receives a majority of the first-choice votes, additional rounds of ballot counting are required. In subsequent rounds of counting, each ballot is counted as one vote for that ballot's highest-ranked advancing candidate and the candidate receiving the fewest votes is eliminated, until one candidate receives a majority of the valid votes in a round.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes – Item 86.

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

Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2017	\$0	0.00	-
2018	\$322,000	0.00	GF
2019	\$0	0.00	-
2020	\$0	0.00	-
2021	\$0	0.00	-
2022	\$0	0.00	-
2023	\$0	0.00	-

8. Fiscal Implications: According to the Department of Elections (ELECT), the proposed legislation would have a one-time general fund impact of \$322,000 in fiscal year 2018. The proposed legislation would require a change to the Virginia Election and Registration Information System (VERIS). Changes would also have to be made to the historical election night reporting system for the display of election results and associated data feeds.

Because the changes to VERIS are not included in the projected upgrade of the voter registration system, ELECT would have to use three contractors at an estimated cost of \$100.00 per hour for 1,040 hours each to make the required changes. The total cost for the contractors is estimated to be \$312,000. The historical election night reporting system would

have to be modified to accommodate this new election format at an estimated one-time cost of \$10,000.

ELECT would be required to review all certified voting systems and reestablish voting system certification guidelines to account for the vote tabulation method. Localities may be subjected to additional costs of voting system procurement since runoff voting is not a current requirement of voting systems.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.