

Department of Planning and Budget 2017 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB821

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: Cosgrove

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Primary elections; adds political party affiliation to information for voter registration.

5. Summary: Adds party affiliation, beginning January 1, 2018, to the information that an applicant is asked to provide when registering to vote. The applicant may indicate that he is an independent. Voters registered prior to January 1, 2018, will be designated as independent unless they provide a political party designation in writing to the general registrar. Voters may change their party affiliation or independent status by written notice at any time before the registration records are closed prior to an election. The state party chairman of each political party must notify the State Board of Elections by January 31 of each year of the rules adopted by the duly constituted authorities of the state political party governing who may participate in the party's primaries held from April 1 of that year through March 31 of the following year.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: 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.

Additional costs that the agency may incur include updating instructions and guidance documents to include translation, changes to the Virginia Election and Registration Information System (VERIS), Citizen Portal, pollbook software and, if needed, changes to web materials, printing and distribution of forms, additional support for staff to research Code sections and update forms impacted by the legislation, and training to assure officers of election and voters are aware of any changes.

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

Date: 1/30/2017

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