Department of Planning and Budget
2018 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB1405

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

2. **Patron:** Ransone

3. **Committee:** Privileges and Elections

4. **Title:** State Board of Elections; membership; appointment of Commissioner of Elections.

5. **Summary:** Increases the membership of the State Board of Elections (Board) from three members to five members and increases the terms of Board members from four years to five years. Representation shall be given to each of the political parties having the highest and next highest number of votes in the Commonweal that the last preceding gubernatorial election, with three Board members being of the party of the Governor. Terms are initially staggered. The bill also grants to the Board the authority to appoint and remove the Commissioner of Elections, subject to confirmation by the General Assembly, to head the Department of Elections and to act as the principal administrative officer. The appointment or removal of the Commissioner shall require an affirmative vote of four of the five Board members. The bill requires the Board to submit an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2019.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary**: No.

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

8. **Fiscal Implications:** As stand-alone legislation, ELECT considers implementation of this bill as "routine," and does not require additional funding. However, the agency 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 the agency will require additional resources. If so, ELECT will identify the costs at that time.

   The Department of Elections currently pays for travel costs and parking for members of the State Board of Elections. Travel costs depend on the distance travelled by an individual member and currently averages $72.76 per meeting at an average of 136 miles round trip and parking is $588 annually for each member. Assuming four meetings per year using the current average travel cost, travel and parking for two additional members is estimated to be $1,758 per year.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Virginia Department of Elections, State Board of Elections.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: This bill is identical to SB 825, as introduced.

Date: 1/24/2018