

Department of Planning and Budget

2018 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB230

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: Rodman

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Vote by mail; pilot program.

5. Summary: Provides that the Department of Elections shall develop a pilot program for conducting elections by mail. In a vote by mail election, a ballot is mailed to every registered voter and the ballots are returned by the voters by mailing the ballot to the office of the general registrar, by delivering the ballot in person to the office of the general registrar, or by depositing the ballot at a drop-off location. The bill requires participating localities to provide a report on the pilot program in its locality to the State Board by December 1 of each year in which it participates. The bill requires the State Board to submit a report to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the House and Senate Committees on Privileges and Elections on the pilot program, including a recommendation as to whether all elections in the Commonwealth should be conducted by mail. The bill has an expiration date of December 31, 2021.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: No state fiscal impact.

8. Fiscal Implications: The Department of Elections (ELECT) notes that under current election practices, localities are responsible for printing ballots and mailing absentee ballots. ELECT indicates that participating localities would be responsible for the costs of printing and mailing ballots for this pilot program.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Elections, any locality that opts to participate in the pilot program.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: January 31, 2018
File: HB230