

Commission on Local Government

Estimate of Local Fiscal Impact

2018 General Assembly Session

Bill: HB268

Patron: Bell

Date: 1/19/2018

In accordance with the provisions of §30-19.03 of the Code of Virginia, the staff of the Commission on Local Government offers the following analysis of the above-referenced legislation:

Bill Summary:

Requires an Intelligent Mail barcode be included on the return envelope provided to absentee voters for the return of the absentee ballot to the general registrar.

Executive Summary:

Localities have evaluated a negative fiscal impact ranging from \$0.00 - \$13,388.00, however it should be noted that most localities indicated that this bill would have little to no fiscal impact. For the two that responded indicating a fiscal impact, their comment noted that the additional costs would be administrative in nature, such as additional postage, printing labels, hardware and software start-up expenses, and for additional temp wages.

Local Analysis:

Locality: City of Danville

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$1,000.00

Cost should run less than \$1,000 for a Presidential election if the Virginia Department of Elections provides the Intelligent Mail barcode free. Estimate based on additional cost for labels and extra time to place on envelopes - this does not include the barcode.

Locality: City of Harrisonburg

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$0.00

Little to no fiscal impact. Envelope printing is currently done every several years.

Locality: City of Roanoke

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$13,388.00

Hardware and software start-up expenses of approximately \$500 would be incurred (1 time cost). Postage costs for absentee ballots would increase approximately 2%. Intelligent Mail Barcodes would need to be affixed to both the outgoing ballot envelope and the return envelope. Additional temp wages could be expected to be approximately \$2,160 per election cycle (1 employee at 6 hours per day for 6 weeks). This time would include ballot preparation using the Intelligent Mail Barcode, as well as the tracking and monitoring of all outgoing and returned ballots.

Locality: City of Winchester
minimal impact

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$0.00

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**Locality:** County of Henrico

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$0.00

There would be no fiscal impact to Henrico County. The barcode is software built into the mailing address for voters applying for absentee ballots. This would be in the state software, VERIS, and when we print out a mailing label the barcode would appear, so there is no additional financial burden on the County.

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Locality: Fairfax County

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$0.00

There is no fiscal impact. Fairfax County uses bar codes already; an additional bar code would cause little administrative difficulty.

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**Locality:** Town of Marion

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$0.00

The Town of Marion SUPPORTS this bill. Adding the Intelligent Mail barcode allows speedier, more efficient processing.

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