

Department of Planning and Budget 2018 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB299

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: Watts

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Localities to eliminate split precincts in congressional and state legislative districts.

5. Summary: .Requires counties and cities to adjust local election district lines to congressional and state legislative district lines established by the General Assembly and requires that precincts be contained wholly within congressional or state legislative districts when a county, city, or town is divided between two or more such districts. The bill provides that a locality that is unable to comply with this requirement may apply to the State Board of Elections for a waiver to administer a split precinct. The State Board shall have the authority to grant the request or direct the locality to create a precinct with fewer than the required number of registered voters. The measure also prohibits counties, cities, and towns from creating, dividing, abolishing, or consolidating any precincts or otherwise changing the boundaries of any precinct between February 1, 2019, and May 15, 2021, except in certain specified circumstances. Precinct ordinances may be adopted after January 1, 2021, but may not be implemented before May 15, 2021.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: As stand-alone legislation, the Department of Elections (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

This bill is not expected to have a fiscal impact on the Division of Legislative Services.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Virginia Department of Elections, Division of Legislative Services, and localities

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 1/31/2018