

Commission on Local Government

Estimate of Local Fiscal Impact

2018 General Assembly Session

Bill: HB449

Patron: Rodman

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:

Repeals the deadline for registering to vote in advance of an election and allows eligible voters to register at any time, including the day of the election. A person who is eligible to vote, but is not registered, may register and be permitted to vote on election day by appearing in person at the polling place for the precinct of which he is a resident and (i) providing certain identifying information; (ii) signing a statement, subject to felony penalties, that he is a qualified voter of that precinct but for not being registered to vote; and (iii) providing proof of residency. Residency may be proven by presenting (a) his valid Virginia driver's license or other photo identification issued by the Commonwealth, one of its political subdivisions, or the United States that contains a valid address in the precinct or (b) any document that contains a valid address in the precinct together with one of the forms of identification accepted for purposes of voting. The bill requires the State Board to provide instructions for the prompt addition of the voter to the Virginia voter registration system on the day of the election.

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### Executive Summary:

Localities have evaluated a negative fiscal impact ranging from \$0.00 - \$110,000.00 for this proposed election mandate. Localities noted that the provisions of the bill would require additional staff for the extra work, and require planning, training, and development work to accommodate new process. Furthermore, the bill could impose additional costs for new equipment-some of which could be expensive and extra ballots, etc. Finally, localities noted that the bill could also increase wait times to both register and vote on the Election Day, which could lead to additional costs.

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### Local Analysis:

**Locality:** City of Danville

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$10,000.00

Cost would be dependent on how the vote is counted. If a real time check through the statewide voter system with e-poll books networked and synchronized is desired so voter can register, be added to the rolls, and vote on the voting system in use at the voting precinct, the cost would run in the hundreds of thousands to set up the technology needed for a secure and state-wide networked system. If election day registration takes place and voter marks ballot and cast as a provisional ballot to be considered after election day so that research can be done to make sure they have not voted in another precinct or Virginia locality the cost would be a lot less. Additional election day staff would be needed at the precincts to process same day voter registration and additional staff in election office afterwards for research needed.

Please note the estimate provided is for same day registrants casting provisional ballots.

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Locality: City of Harrisonburg

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$15,000.00

\$15,000 estimate is per election.

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**Locality:** City of Roanoke

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$4,000.00

At face value, this would create significant extra work, particularly in the few weeks immediately preceding each election. Allowing persons to register and to vote after the close of books, particularly after electronic pollbooks have been programmed, would require numerous extra resources in planning, training and execution. Many new processes would need to be developed. Proof of residency is something that currently is handled only through mail delivery (or non-delivery) of one's voter notice. Driver's licenses are not used to verify a voter's address, only their identity. Conservatively, if the above were passed, additional temp wages of approximately \$3,650 would be incurred per election (two extra employees working 3 weeks, plus two Saturdays, plus Election Day). The addition of auxiliary processes to accomplish this could increase expenses. Training costs would likely increase by approximately \$2,000 per election.

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Locality: City of Winchester

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$100,000.00

The approx. estimate is based on increased staffing, equipment, and supply items such as extra ballots. This would also increase wait times to both register and vote on election day.

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**Locality:** County of Henrico

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$15,000.00

Registering voters at the polls on Election Day would require at least one additional election officer at each polling place. The \$15,000 figure comes from the costs of placing only one additional officer at each of the 97 precincts in Henrico County.

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Locality: Fairfax County

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$110,000.00

Fiscal impact is estimated at \$110,000 for start-up for electronic poll books at polling locations and satellite locations plus \$110,000 in staffing per election. Additional staff would be needed at polling locations. Open registration deadline inhibits ability for a complete pollbook to polls on election days. Could increase lines and voter dissatisfaction.

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**Locality:** Town of Marion

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$0.00

The Town of Marion opposes this bill. Directly, there are no costs that will be incurred to the town; however, the concept of someone waiting until the day of the election to register increases the likelihood of uninformed voters and places undue responsibility on local volunteers to appropriately screen voters in a time-sensitive situation.

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