Department of Planning and Budget
2018 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB57

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

2. **Patron:** Herring

3. **Committee:** Privileges and Elections

4. **Title:** Absentee voting; no excuse.

5. **Summary:** Allows for any registered voter to vote by absentee ballot in any election in which he is qualified to vote. The bill removes the current list of statutory reasons for which a person may be entitled to vote by absentee ballot and consolidates multiple sections relating to absentee voting by uniformed and overseas voters into one section and multiple sections related to absentee voting by persons with a disability into one section.

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

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

8. **Fiscal Implications:** This bill would require an update to the Virginia Election and Registration Information System (VERIS) to remove the reason codes (categories) currently required to be identified in order to vote absentee. The agency would also have to update absentee forms, reports, and other VERIS functionality to reflect the removal of the reason codes in the system. The Department of Elections estimates the cost of these updates to be $8,814: $2,500 for changes to VERIS; $2,200 for changes to forms, web materials, and guidance documents; and $4,114 to print and distribute new forms.

   As stand-alone legislation, the Department of Elections considers implementation of this bill as "routine," and does not require additional funding. However, the Department of Elections 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 that the Department of Elections will require additional resources. If so, the Department of Elections will identify the costs at that time.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Virginia Department of Elections and localities.

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

11. **Other Comments:** This bill is similar or identical to HB 1072 and SB 114.

Date: 1/29/2018