

## Department of Planning and Budget 2018 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB254

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:** Dance

**3. Committee:** Privileges and Elections

**4. Title:** Absentee voting; no excuse required when voting in person.

**5. Summary:** Provides that any registered voter may vote by absentee ballot in person in any election in which he is qualified to vote without providing a reason for being unable to vote in person on election day. The bill retains the statutory list of reasons allowing a voter to cast an absentee ballot by mail.

**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 establish a new reason code (category) to identify voters who vote in-person by absentee ballot without providing another existing reason for being unable to vote in-person on election day. The agency would also have to update absentee forms, reports, and other VERIS functionality to accommodate the modified reason code. The Department of Elections (ELECT) estimates the cost of these updates to be \$4,700: \$2,500 for changes to VERIS and \$2,200 for changes to forms, web materials, and guidance documents.

As stand-alone legislation, ELECT considers implementation of this bill as “routine,” and does not require significant 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 a companion to HB 835.

Date: 1/30/2018