

## **Department of Planning and Budget**

### **2018 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number:** SB820

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

**2. Patron:** Cosgrove

**3. Committee:** Privileges and Elections

**4. Title:** Voter registration by political party affiliation; primary elections.

**5. Summary:** Adds party affiliation, beginning January 1, 2019, to the information that an applicant is asked to provide when registering to vote. The applicant may indicate that he is an independent. Voters registered prior to January 1, 2019, will be designated as independent unless they provide a political party designation in writing to the general registrar. Voters may change their party affiliation or independent status by written notice at any time before the registration records are closed prior to an election. The state party chairman of each political party must notify the State Board of Elections by January 31 of each year of the rules adopted by the duly constituted authorities of the state political party governing who may participate in the party's primaries to be held from April 1 of that year through March 31 of the following year.

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

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

**8. Fiscal Implications:** This bill would require the Department of Elections (ELECT) to update the Virginia Election and Registration Information System (VERIS), the Citizen Portal, and pollbook software. 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.

Additional costs that ELECT may incur include updating instructions and guidance documents to include translation, and, if needed, changes to web materials, printing and distribution of forms, additional support for staff to research Code sections and update forms impacted by the legislation, and training to ensure officers of election and voters are aware of any changes.

The bill would also require the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to revise its online, electronic and mail-in voter registration application processes to capture party affiliation

information. The DMV estimates a one-time cost of \$33,523 to implement these changes. The DMV expects to be able to absorb the one-time implementation costs in fiscal year 2019.

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

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

**11. Other Comments:** None.

Date: 1/30/2018