

Department of Planning and Budget

2018 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB825-H1

House of Origin	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: Edwards

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: State Board of Elections; membership; appointment of Commissioner of Elections.

5. Summary: The substitute bill increases the membership of the State Board of Elections (Board) from three members to six members and increases the terms of Board members from four years to six years. Equal representation shall be given to each of the political parties having the highest and next highest number of votes in the Commonwealth at the last preceding gubernatorial election. Terms are initially staggered. The bill also grants to the Board the authority to appoint and remove the Commissioner of Elections, subject to confirmation by the General Assembly, to head the Department of Elections and to act as the principal administrative officer. The appointment or removal of the Commissioner shall require an affirmative vote of five of the six Board members. The Governor shall designate one Board member to be the chair of the Board and one member to be the vice-chair, which shall be members of opposite political parties. The bill requires the Board to submit an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2019.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: See Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: As stand-alone legislation, the Department of Elections 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, the Department of Elections will identify the costs at that time.

The Department of Elections currently pays for travel costs and parking for members of the State Board of Elections. Travel costs depend on the distance travelled by an individual member and currently averages \$72.76 per meeting at an average of 136 miles round trip. Parking is \$588 annually for each member. Assuming four meetings per year using the current average travel cost, travel and parking for three additional members is estimated to be \$2,637 per year.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Virginia Department of Elections,
State Board of Elections.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: This bill is a companion to HB 1405.

Date: 2/23/2018