

Department of Planning and Budget 2019 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1620

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

2. Patron: Ransone

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

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

5. Summary: 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. Appointments shall be made with due consideration of geographical representation, and no two Board members may reside in the same congressional district. Terms are initially staggered. The bill also grants to the Board the authority to appoint, subject to confirmation by the General Assembly, the Commissioner of Elections to head the Department of Elections and to act as the principal administrative officer. Additionally, the Board has the authority to remove the Commissioner. The appointment or removal of the Commissioner shall require an affirmative vote of five of the six Board members. The bill also directs the Department of Elections to employ a Director of Operations, who is to be responsible for managing the day-to-day operations at the Department. The bill requires the Board to submit an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes – Item 83.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: See Item 8.

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2019	-	-	-
2020	\$171,579	1	General Fund
2021	\$171,579	1	General Fund
2022	\$171,579	1	General Fund
2023	\$171,579	1	General Fund
2024	\$171,579	1	General Fund
2025	\$171,579	1	General Fund

8. Fiscal Implications: The bill would increase membership of the State Board of Elections (the Board) from three to six members and directs the Department of Elections to employ a Director of Operations responsible for managing day-to-day operations of the agency. The

Department of Elections currently pays for travel costs, limited lodging, and parking for Board members.

The Department of Elections expects to incur additional annual costs of approximately \$171,579, which includes \$10,200 for the three additional board members in addition to \$161,379 to support the new Director of Operations position, assuming a salary of \$105,000.

The estimate for board member costs is based on the following annual cost for each of the three new members at current rates: four days of lodging and per diems at a cost of \$640 (lodging \$376, per diem \$264), \$588 for parking, and an average travel distance of 416 miles at a cost of \$241.33 per meeting for the nine meetings currently held each year. The average assumed travel distance of 416 was calculated based on the average distance to the State Board of Elections' office from the following three locations: the valley region's Winchester City in the valley region, Accomack County in the eastern region, and Bristol City in the southwestern region of the Commonwealth. Actual travel costs depend on the distance travelled by an individual member.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: This statement has been updated to include additional information regarding the estimated cost of the Director of Operations position.