

Department of Planning and Budget 2019 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB1620-ER

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

2. **Patron:** Ransone

3. **Committee:** Passed Both Houses

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

5. **Summary:** Increases the membership of the State Board of Elections from three members to five members and increases the terms of Board members from four years to five years. Representation shall be given to each of the political parties having the highest and next highest number of votes in the Commonwealth at the preceding gubernatorial election, with three Board members being of the party of the Governor. 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 and remove the Commissioner of Elections, subject to confirmation by the General Assembly. The appointment or removal of the Commissioner shall require an affirmative vote of four of the five Board members. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2020.

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

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** See Item 8.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The bill would increase membership of the State Board of Elections (the Board) from three to five members, effective January 1, 2020. The Department of Elections currently pays for travel costs, limited lodging, and parking for Board members and would incur additional expenses for such costs for the two additional members. As stand-alone legislation, the Department of Elections considers implementation of this bill as “routine,” and does not require additional funding.

The Department of Elections estimates additional annual costs of \$6,800 for two additional Board members. This estimate is based on the following annual cost for each of the two new members at current rates: four days of lodging and per diems at a cost of \$640.00 (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.

Due to the bill's delayed effective date of January 1, 2020, additional costs for the two new Board members would be incurred for one-half of fiscal year 2020 and annually thereafter.

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 SB 1455.