

## Department of Planning and Budget 2019 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB1658

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:** Rodman

**3. Committee:** Privileges and Elections

**4. Title:** Vote by mail; Department of Elections to develop a pilot program.

**5. Summary:** Requires the Department of Elections to develop a pilot program for conducting elections by mail. In a vote-by-mail election, a ballot is mailed to every registered voter, and the ballots are returned by the voters by mailing the ballot to the office of the general registrar, by delivering the ballot in person to the office of the general registrar, or by depositing the ballot at a drop-off location. The bill allows any county or city to apply to participate in the pilot program, subject to approval by the State Board of Elections, and requires participating localities to provide a report on the pilot program in its locality to the State Board by December 1 of each year in which it participates. The bill requires the State Board to submit a report to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the House and Senate Committees on Privileges and Elections on the pilot program, including a recommendation as to whether all elections in the Commonwealth should be conducted by mail. The bill has an expiration date of December 31, 2022.

**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.

Under current election practices, localities are responsible for printing ballots and mailing absentee ballots. Therefore, the expected impact is based on the assumption that participating localities would be responsible for the costs of printing and mailing ballots for the pilot program authorized by the bill, consistent with current practices.

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

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

**11. Other Comments:** None.