

Department of Planning and Budget 2019 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1904

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

2. Patron: Simon

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Voter registration; registration on election day; registration of provisional voters.

5. Summary: Provides that persons who are otherwise qualified to register to vote are entitled to register to vote and cast a ballot in person in the office of the general registrar, or at another location or locations in the county or city approved by the electoral board, on the day of the election. Additionally, the provisional ballot of a person who is required to vote a provisional ballot because his name does not appear on the pollbook shall be counted if the general registrar determines during the canvass that the person was qualified for registration based upon the application for registration submitted by the person with his provisional ballot. The bill also requires registration records to be closed for the purpose of registering voters during the three days prior to any election. Currently, the registration records are required to be closed for this purpose during the 21 days prior to a primary or general election, six days prior to certain special elections, and 13 days prior to other special elections. The bill adjusts other deadlines to reflect this change.

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.

This bill would require an update to the Virginia Election and Registration Information System (VERIS) to allow for the late registration update registration forms, reports, and other VERIS functionality to reflect the addition of the voter in the system. The Department of Elections estimates the cost of these updates to be \$8,814: \$2,500 for changes to VERIS; \$2,200 for changes to forms, web materials, and guidance documents; and \$4,114 to print and distribute new forms.

Localities would be responsible for administering the addition of voters to the rolls the day of election and for the handling and counting of such ballots, pursuant to the procedures and instructions prescribed by the Department of Elections.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Virginia Department of Elections and localities.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 1/14/2019