

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 24.2-673.1, relating to ranked
3 choice voting; elections for local governing bodies; local option pilot program.

4 [H 1103]

5 Approved

6 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

7 1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 24.2-673.1 as follows:

8 § 24.2-673.1. *Ranked choice voting.*

9 A. For purposes of this section:

10 "Ranked choice voting" means a method of casting and tabulating votes in which (i) voters rank
11 candidates in order of preference, (ii) tabulation proceeds in rounds such that in each of round either a
12 candidate or candidates are elected or the last-place candidate is defeated, (iii) votes for voters'
13 next-ranked candidates are transferred from elected or defeated candidates, and (iv) tabulation ends
14 when the number of candidates elected equals the number of offices to be filled. Ranked choice voting is
15 known as "instant runoff voting" when electing a single office and "single transferrable vote" when
16 electing multiple offices.

17 "Ranking" means the ordinal number assigned on a ballot by a voter to a candidate to express the
18 voter's preference for that candidate. Ranking number one is the highest ranking, ranking number two is
19 the next-highest ranking, and so on, consecutively, up to the number of candidates indicated on the
20 ballot.

21 B. Elections of members of a county board of supervisors or a city council may be conducted by
22 ranked choice voting pursuant to this section. The decision to conduct an election by ranked choice
23 voting shall be made, in consultation with the local electoral board and general registrar, by a majority
24 vote of the board of supervisors or city council that the office being elected serves.

25 C. The State Board may promulgate regulations for the proper and efficient administration of
26 elections determined by ranked choice voting, including (i) procedures for tabulating votes in rounds,
27 (ii) procedures for determining winners in elections for offices to which only one candidate is being
28 elected and to which more than one candidate is being elected, and (iii) standards for ballots pursuant
29 to § 24.2-613, notwithstanding the provisions of subsection E of that section.

30 D. The State Board may administer or prescribe standards for a voter outreach and public
31 information program for use by any locality conducting ranked choice voting pursuant to this section.

32 2. That any costs incurred by the Department of Elections related to changes in technology that
33 are necessary for the implementation of this act, including changes to technology for receiving the
34 results of elections conducted pursuant to this act, shall be charged to the localities exercising the
35 option to proceed with ranked choice voting.

36 3. That the provisions of this act shall become effective on July 1, 2021.

37 4. That the provisions of this act shall expire on July 1, 2031.

ENROLLED

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