

Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB19-H1

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

2. Patron: Lindsey

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Voter identification; signed statement in lieu of required form of identification; penalty.

5. Summary: Permits a voter who does not show one of the required forms of identification when offering to vote to sign a statement that he is the named registered voter he claims to be in order to be permitted to cast a ballot. Such statement is signed subject to felony penalties for making false statements, punishable as a Class 5 felony. A voter who does not show one of the required forms of identification and does not complete or sign the statement shall be offered a provisional ballot according to the provisions of current law. The bill adds language regarding identification requirements for certain voters subject to the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: See Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: The proposed legislation is not expected to have a fiscal impact on the Department of Elections.

The proposed legislation expands applicability of an existing Class 5 felony offense. According to Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission data, the provisions of this bill are not expected to increase the need for state-responsible (prison) beds. Accordingly, pursuant to §30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission estimates a fiscal impact of \$0.

While the legislation may increase the future local-responsible (jail) bed space needs, the magnitude of the impact cannot be determined. Any increase in jail population will increase costs to the state. The Commonwealth currently pays the localities \$4.00 a day for each misdemeanor or otherwise local-responsible prisoner held in a jail and \$12.00 a day for each state-responsible prisoner. It also funds a considerable portion of the jails' operating costs, e.g. correctional officers. The state's share of these costs on a per prisoner, per day basis varies from locality to locality. However, according to the Compensation Board's most recent Jail Cost Report (November 2019), the estimated total state support for local jails averaged \$34.07 per inmate, per day in FY 2018.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 2/10/2020