Department of Planning and Budget
2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB201

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

2. **Patron:** Ayala

3. **Committee:** Privileges and Elections

4. **Title:** Elections; same-day registration; in-person absentee and election day voting.

5. **Summary:** Provides an exception to the closing of registration records for any person who (i) is qualified to register to vote, (ii) is unregistered or registered in a locality in which the person no longer resides but is otherwise entitled to vote by absentee ballot, (iii) desires to vote absentee in person at the time that they present themselves to be registered, and (iv) provides proof of residency. The bill also permits same-day registrants to vote absentee and provides an excuse for election day absentee voting for such voters. The bill requires all voters who register to vote under the provisions of this bill to fill out an absentee application, including the required oath, in order to vote. This bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2022.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary**: See Item 8.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary; see Item 8.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** This bill would permit a person who would like to vote in person to update registration or register after the current registration deadline has passed. In-person registration would be permitted at any location that permits absentee voting during the in-person absentee voting period. General registrars' offices would also be required to be open for registration and in-person absentee voting on Election Day.

   The Department of Elections (ELECT) would need to modify the Virginia Election and Registration Information System (VERIS) and supporting systems to allow in-person absentee voting and to register or update their registration beyond the registration deadline. ELECT's preliminary estimate of the one-time cost to make the required changes is $44,200 based on an estimated 340 hours at $130 per hour provided by contractors. ELECT currently has limited capacity to absorb the additional workload with its current staffing levels. Anticipated systems changes include, but are not limited to, a job schedule that runs behind the scenes or overnight, processes to check a voter record for a match to the existing voter record, and changes to VERIS (online voter registration records, hoppers and batch reports to accommodate any changes to the data received).

   Any potential impact to local general registrars and localities is indeterminate.

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: 1/27/2020