

## Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB201

House of Origin	<input type="checkbox"/>	Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitute	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Ayala

**3. Committee:** Passed Both Houses

**4. Title:** Elections; voter registration; extended time for persons to register in person.

**5. Summary:** Provides any person who is qualified to vote is entitled to register to vote in person up to and including the day of the election at the office of the general registrar in the locality in which the person resides or at the polling place for the precinct in which the person resides. Under current law, registration records close for registration purposes, whether in person or by other means, 21 days prior to a primary or general election. The bill has a delayed effective date of October 1, 2022.

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

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** See Item 8.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** This bill would permit any person who is qualified to vote to register in person up to and including election day at the office of the general registrar or the polling place for the precinct in which the person resides. The bills direct the Department of Elections to prescribe procedures for adding those registering up to and including election day to the lists of registered voters.

Assuming a new statewide elections system is not implemented prior to the bill's October 1, 2022, effective date, the Department of Elections (ELECT) would need to modify the Virginia Election and Registration Information System (VERIS) and supporting systems to allow in-person registration beyond the current registration deadline and would require a budget amendment. ELECT estimates one-time costs of \$44,200 to make the required changes, based on an estimated 340 hours at \$130 per hour for 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).

However, if VERIS were to be replaced with a new elections system prior to the bill's effective date of October 1, 2022, the bill's requirements would be expected to be capable of being implemented in the new system without requiring additional funding. Conference amendment Item 86 #3c to HB/SB30 directs ELECT to replace VERIS by July 1, 2022,

using federal funding provided from the Help America Vote Act. However, even if this proposed amendment were to be included in the enacted budget, the feasibility of this proposed timeline is uncertain pending completion of the procurement process, according to the agency.

Local general registrars' offices would also be required to be open for registration on Election Day and facilitate registration at their offices and at polling places pursuant to the procedures adopted by the Department of Elections. 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, local general registrars, and localities.

- 10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

- 11. Other Comments:** None.

Date: 3/20/2020