

## Department of Planning and Budget

### 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB208

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

**2. Patron:** Murphy

**3. Committee:** Privileges and Elections

**4. Title:** Elections; absentee voting by persons age 65 or older.

**5. Summary:** Entitles persons who will be age 65 or older on the date of an election for which an absentee ballot is requested to vote absentee.

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

**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.

According to the Department of Elections, this bill would require an update to the Virginia Election and Registration Information System (VERIS) to establish a new reason code (category) to identify those voters 65 years or older eligible to vote absentee. Under current law, voters 65 or older must otherwise qualify to vote absentee under one of the other current reason codes aligning with the current list of statutory reasons under which absentee voting is allowed. The agency would also need to update absentee forms, reports, and other VERIS functionality to accommodate the modified reason code. 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 are responsible for conducting elections, including absentee voting by mail or in-person voting, and would be responsible for any potential impact of changes necessary to facilitate the proposed voting process.

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

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** None.

Date: 1/20/2020