

Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB784

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

2. **Patron:** VanValkenburg

3. **Committee:** Passed Both Houses.

4. **Title:** Constitutional amendment (voter referendum); apportionment; Virginia Redistricting Commission.

5. **Summary:** The bill provides for a referendum at the November 3, 2020, election to approve or reject amendments to the Constitution of Virginia establishing the Virginia Redistricting Commission and providing for the reapportionment of the Commonwealth to be done by such Commission. If approved by the voters, the amendments would become effective on November 15, 2020.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

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

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The bill presents no fiscal impact to the Commonwealth as it is anticipated the \$1,069,500 per year provided in Item 479 of House Bill 30 will support the needs of the Virginia Redistricting Commission and associated costs involving the process for a constitutional amendment.

Looking at identifiable costs related to this bill, please consider the following comments.

Section 30-19.9, Code of Virginia, requires the State Board of Elections to run advertisements in state newspapers and prepare posters and pamphlets providing public notice about proposed constitutional amendments. The Department of Elections estimates one-time costs of \$95,000 related to one constitutional amendment, which is based on the cost of advertising and printing proposed constitutional amendments in 2018 and feedback from the Virginia Press Association. This amount consists of approximately \$55,000 estimated for newspaper advertising costs and \$40,000 for printing of posters and pamphlets.

As is common with most legislative commissions and councils, there are fiscal impacts to the House of Delegates and the Senate of Virginia, the agencies that will be responsible for the compensation of the legislative members of the Commission. With an expectation of up to ten meetings per year, the Senate estimates the interim meeting compensation of its four legislative members to be \$12,000 annually. The House, having the same number of

members, estimates \$12,000 per year as well.

While the above costs are expected, there are costs that cannot yet be determined under the bill as currently presented. The bill does not assign responsibility for staffing of the Commission, so further impacts to these and other agencies are possible. With the high number of anticipated meetings, staffing costs will be higher than most legislative commissions or councils, as most average only four meetings per year.

It should also be noted that the bill does not address the responsible party or parties for covering general expenses of its members. As an aid to understand the potential impact of these costs, the Division of Legislative Services indicates the bill could present an impact approaching \$40,000 for the Commission to cover the mileage, lodging, meals, and incidental expenses of the 16 Commission members, as well as the per diems allowed to the 8 nonlegislative citizen members.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: The Virginia Redistricting Commission, the House of Delegates, and the Senate of Virginia.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.