

Department of Planning and Budget 2021 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1746

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

2. Patron: Cole

3. Committee: Committee Referral Pending

4. Title: Conduct of elections; vote counting, required live video recording.

5. Summary: Requires the general registrar of each county and city to provide for a live video recording of each polling place while absentee ballots are cast, votes are counted, and returns are completed, and of each central absentee precinct while ballots are handled and returns are completed. The general registrars are required to ensure the video coverage is recorded and retained until the deadline to request a recount has passed and, if any contest or recount is pending thereafter, until it has been concluded. The bill provides that each live video recording must include date and time indicators and be linked to the official website of the county or city. The Department of Elections is required to post links on its official website to the video coverage for viewing by the public. The bill provides that any disruption in video coverage shall not affect or prevent the continued casting of absentee ballots, counting of votes, or completion of returns, and is not grounds for an election contest.

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.

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: 1/15/2021