

Department of Planning and Budget 2021 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB2088

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: Cox

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: State Board of Elections; number of members; appointment of Commissioner of Elections.

5. Summary: Increases the number of members on the State Board of Elections from five to six and requires the political representation of the Board to be equal between the two political parties having received the highest and next highest number of votes at the preceding gubernatorial election. The bill also provides for the Commissioner of Elections, currently appointed by the Governor, to be appointed by the Board. Such appointment would require an affirmative vote of four of the six members of the Board. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2022.

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.

The bill would increase membership of the State Board of Elections (the Board) from five to six members. The Department of Elections estimates additional annual costs of \$3,529 for one additional Board member. This estimate is based on the following annual cost for the new member at current rates: four days of lodging and per diems at a cost of \$844.00 (lodging \$580, per diem \$264), \$588 for parking, and an average travel distance of 416 miles at a cost of \$233 per meeting for the nine meetings currently held each year. The average assumed travel distance of 416 miles was calculated based on the average distance to the State Board of Elections’ office from the following three locations: the valley region’s Winchester City in the valley region, Accomack County in the eastern region, and Bristol City in the southwestern region of the Commonwealth. Actual travel costs depend on the distance traveled by an individual member.

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