

Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB219

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

2. **Patron:** Lopez

3. **Committee:** Privileges and Elections

4. **Title:** Voter registration; automatic voter registration.

5. **Summary:** Provides for the automatic electronic transmission by the Department of Motor Vehicles to the Department of Elections of certain information for any individual who (i) is not registered to vote; (ii) is of sufficient age to register to vote; (iii) conducts a transaction with the Department of Motor Vehicles to apply for a new driver's license or special identification card or replace, renew, or update an existing driver's license or special identification card; and (iv) in the course of such transaction provides documentation demonstrating United States citizenship or answers affirmatively when asked if he is a United States citizen. Any such individual is given a printed registration notice that (a) states that the individual will be registered to vote based on the information provided and that the individual should decline registration if he does not meet eligibility requirements, (b) explains the eligibility requirements, and (c) provides instructions for how he may decline registration. The Department of Elections is required to transmit the information to the appropriate general registrar, along with any information indicating ineligibility. The Department of Elections is required to establish security requirements for transmission of information about potential registered voters and to report certain information regarding voter registration. The bill removes the requirement that the Department of Motor Vehicles offer, accept, receive, and send voter registration applications.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes; Item 86.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary; see Item 8.

7a. Expenditure Impact for the Department of Elections:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2020	-	-	
2021	\$143,000	-	GF
2022	-	-	

8. **Fiscal Implications:** This bill would require the Department of Elections (ELECT) to modify the Virginia Election and Registration Information System (VERIS) and supporting systems to facilitate automatic voter registration. ELECT preliminarily estimates one-time cost of \$143,000 to hire contractors to make required changes, based on an estimated 1,100 hours at an average cost of \$130.00 per hour. ELECT currently has limited capacity to absorb

the additional workload with its current staffing. Anticipated systems updates include, but are not limited, to Web Services (update validation, language, and Citizens Portal); Change third party API registrations, and changes to VERIS (Hoppers and Batch reports to accommodate any changes to the data received).

Any potential impact to the Department of Motor Vehicles and any other agencies that oversee offices designated as voter registration agencies pursuant to § 24.2-411.2, Code of Virginia, are unknown at this time.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Elections, Department of Motor Vehicles, agencies with offices designated as voter registration agencies pursuant to § 24.2-411.2, Code of Virginia, local general registrars, and localities.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 1/27/2020