

## **Department of Planning and Budget**

### **2021 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number:** HB2239

<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:** Robinson

**3. Committee:** Privileges and Elections

**4. Title:** Elections; absentee voting; ballots to be processed before election day and sorted and counted.

**5. Summary:** Requires certain actions to be taken to process absentee ballots that are returned by mail before election day. The general registrar is required to examine the ballot envelopes to verify completion of the required voter affirmation; mark the pollbook, or the absentee voter applicant list if the pollbook is not available, that the voter has voted; and open the sealed ballot envelopes and insert the ballots in optical scan counting equipment or other secure ballot container without initiating any ballot count totals. Current law requires only that the general registrar undertake at least one such activity before election day. So that ballots can be separated from ballot envelopes and scanned, the bill requires that the office of the general registrar be used as a central absentee voter precinct. The bill requires that absentee ballots processed at any central absentee voter precinct be sorted by the precinct to which the voter who cast the absentee ballot is assigned and that the resulting vote totals from such ballots be reported separately for each voter precinct.

**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: 1/18/2021