

Department of Planning and Budget
2021 Special Session I Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB1097

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

2. Patron: Favola

3. Committee: Passed Both Houses

4. Title: Absentee voting; witness signature not required.

5. Summary: Provides that a voter's failure to have a witness sign the absentee ballot return envelope for any election held during a declared state of emergency related to a communicable disease of public health threat shall not be considered a material omission and shall not render his ballot void. The bill also directs the Department of Elections to convene a work group to consider and evaluate alternatives to the witness signature requirement for election officials to use to verify that an absentee ballot has been cast by the voter identified as having requested and received the absentee ballot. If recommending any specific policies or legislative proposals, the work group shall communicate such recommendations to the Chairmen of the House and Senate Committees on Privileges and Elections by November 15, 2021.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: No state fiscal impact.

8. Fiscal Implications: The proposed legislation is not expected to have a state fiscal impact.

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: 2/26/2021