

Department of Planning and Budget 2021 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB1245

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: Deeds

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Absentee voting; establishment of drop-off locations; ballot defects; cure process.

5. Summary: Requires the establishment of a drop-off location for the return of marked absentee ballots at the office of the general registrar and each voter satellite office. On the day of any election, a drop-off location shall be available at each polling place in operation for such election. The bill allows the general registrar of any county or city to establish additional drop-off locations within the county or city as he deems necessary. The Department of Elections is required to set standards related to the establishment and operation of drop-off locations, including security requirements. The bill also requires general registrars to take certain actions to preprocess absentee ballots returned before election day and to notify an absentee voter of any errors or issues with the completion or return of his absentee ballot that would render the ballot void. The general registrars are required to enter into the voter's record in the registration system that the voter's absentee ballot has an issue requiring correction and to notify the voter in writing or by email of the error or failure, in addition to providing information on how to correct the issue. The absentee voter then has until noon on the third day following the election to make necessary corrections so that his ballot may be counted. This ballot cure process applies only to those absentee ballots received by the Friday immediately preceding the day of the election. The bill contains technical amendments for organizational purposes.

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: 1/21/2021