

Department of Planning and Budget 2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB544

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

2. Patron: Batten

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Voter identification; optional restrictive identification requirement.

5. Summary: Allows a voter to opt into being required to show a valid photo identification issued by the Commonwealth, one of its political subdivisions, or the United States when voting in person. When a voter offers to vote and the pollbook indicates he has opted into such requirement, he shall be required to show a valid photo identification issued by the Commonwealth, one of its political subdivisions, or the United States in order to vote a regular ballot. The bill requires the voter registration application to permit an applicant to opt into this requirement and the Department of Elections to provide the means for currently registered voters to opt in as well.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary; 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.

The bill would require an update to the voter registration application, which affects the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) because of the Motor Voter process. DMV offers the opportunity to register to vote to every customer who conducts certain transactions with DMV. The bill would require DMV to update its online and in-person electronic motor voter (EMV) systems and paper voter registration application in order to include the opt-in question for applicants intending to present a valid photo identification issued by the Commonwealth, one of its political subdivisions, or the United States when voting in person. According to DMV, programming changes to its systems are estimated to cost \$41,980 and take 570 staff hours to complete. However, this is expected to be able to be absorbed by the agency and not require additional funding.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Virginia Department of Elections, State Board of Elections, Department of Motor Vehicles, and localities (General Registrars and Electoral Boards).

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: This statement has been revised to reflect that expected impact for the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Date: 1/31/2022