# Department of Planning and Budget
## 2023 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB2301

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

2. **Patron:** Bloxom

3. **Committee:** Privileges and Elections

4. **Title:** Elections; presidential primaries; ranked choice voting.

5. **Summary:** Allows political parties to hold presidential primaries using ballots that allow a voter to rank such party's candidates in his order of choice.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary**: See item 8.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary, see item 8.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** This bill would expand ranked choice voting (RCV) elections which would require transmission of locality cast vote records (CVR) to ELECT for centralized round-by-round tabulation via a tabulation software. The current State Voter Registration System (VERIS) nor the under-development State Voter Registration System (SVRS) have tabulation software built in. For local ranked choice voting races, ELECT has procured the use of third-party tabulation software, RCTab via the Ranked Choice Voting Resource Center.

   Virginia has unique implementation challenges compared to current states that permit statewide RCV races, like Alaska and Maine, in that Virginia has four different voting vendors across the 133 localities. To compile results for statewide or district wide contest, the RCV tabulator must be able to collect all of the CVRs created by each vendor in each locality. Each vendor has its own software that produces a CVR in a different file format. Currently, no voting system vendor or third-party tabulator has developed their product to accommodate multiple vendors voting equipment files to tabulate results. Virginia would need to become a national leader in the development of this new software capability which would come with an indeterminate fiscal impact. If RCV is expanded to multi-locality and/or statewide races, ELECT will have to determine between the following implementation options:

   1. Rely and coordinate with third party vendors, like the Ranked Choice Voting Resource Center, to alter/upgrade their tabulation software to accommodate various files at once.

2. ELECT builds a tabulation software into the existing VERIS system to accommodate an immediate enactment date.

3. ELECT and the SVRS vendors, Canton and Provista, alter the contract for the SVRS system development to include the building and system integration of a tabulation software for schedule scheduled deployment of early 2025.

Depending on requirements and agency decisions, one, or all the above options could be implemented with an indeterminate cost to the agency.

This bill also comes with a fiscal impact to localities, as all localities would need the ability to produce a cast vote record. While all voting systems in the Commonwealth have this function, not all localities have acquired the software necessary.

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:**  This bill is a companion to SB1380.

January 23, 2023