

## Department of Planning and Budget

### 2023 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB2454

**House of Origin**    ☒ Introduced    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Engrossed

**Second House**    ☐ In Committee    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Campbell, E.H.

**3. Committee:** Privileges and Elections

**4. Title:** Voter registration; monthly list maintenance.

**5. Summary:** Requires the Department of Elections to conduct and complete voter list maintenance monthly using change of address information supplied by the United States Postal Service, except that such list maintenance will not be conducted during the 90 days prior to a federal primary or general election. Following any federal general election, the Department shall, within 30 days of such election, conduct and complete the list maintenance for the period beginning 90 days prior to the federal primary election through the date of the federal general election. The bill requires the Department to transmit the change of address information to the general registrars monthly and to include with such information the date on which it was received by the Department.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, Item 89.

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

**8. Fiscal Implications:** This bill would require the Department of Elections to conduct its National Change of Address (NCOA) list maintenance process monthly. Currently, ELECT conducts this process twice a year. It would also require the Department to transmit the change of address information to the general registrars monthly and to include the date on which information was received by the Department.

The current process for list maintenance is completed manually and requires work from multiple employees, making automation difficult. This current process typically takes two months. General registrars are not responsible for distributing the notices, however, registrars receive the return mail as voters respond to the confirmation notices or as mail is returned as undeliverable. To forward the appropriate NCOA information to registrars monthly, the Virginia Election and Registration Information System (VERIS) would need to be updated so registrars could receive and process the information. Additionally, VERIS can only currently run one NCOA process at a time. As voters have 30 days from the date a notice is sent to provide a response before they are placed as inactive, a new NCOA process cannot run until the 30 days have passed.

To make the required changes needed for a monthly voter list maintenance process, ELECT staff will need to be supported with two contractors for an estimated 1920 hours total. These hours will allow the contractors to make changes to the current manual process and update VERIS to allow for the monthly processing. The one-time cost of this is estimated to be \$161,222 from the general fund.

In addition to the contractors, ELECT will need two full time staff to manage the additional workload. This would bring the total fiscal impact of this bill to \$420,478 the first year and \$259,256 every year thereafter from the general fund.

This bill also comes with a fiscal impact to localities, as all localities will have to increase processing of information. The cost to localities is indeterminate at this time.

It is currently estimated that there will be no cost associated with the changes that will impact the new statewide voter registration system (SVRS).

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

- 10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

- 11. Other Comments:** None.

January 31, 2023