

## Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB623 ER

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

**2. Patron:** Price

**3. Committee:** Passed both Houses

**4. Title:** Rights of voters; covered practices, civil cause of action, standing, jurisdiction, and venue.

**5. Summary:** The proposed bill provides that, in addition to voters who are members of a protected class and the Attorney General, any organization whose membership includes voters who are members of a protected class or any organization whose mission, in whole or in part, is to ensure voting access and such mission would be hindered by a violation of this section, or the Attorney General is entitled to initiate a cause of action as established by the bill.

The bill provides that the Circuit Court of the City of Richmond has jurisdiction over such actions and such actions will be subject to expedited pretrial and trial proceedings and receive an automatic calendar preference. The bill also adds to the definition of "covered practice" any change that reduces the number of voter satellite offices in a locality or reduces the number of days or the hours of operation of a voter satellite office in a locality.

The bill allows the governing body of any county or city to establish, by ordinance, a plan each year for the number and location of voter satellite offices and the dates and hours of operations of such satellite offices for all elections to be held in the county or city that year. Such plans may differentiate the dates and hours of operation for voter satellite offices depending on the type of election and may include parameters for permissible deviations from the plan. If a governing body that has established voter satellite offices does not establish an annual plan pursuant to this subsection, the dates and hours of operation of the voter satellite offices must be the same as the dates and hours of operation for the office of the general registrar for such locality. The bill also provides that any qualified voter who is in line to cast his absentee ballot when the voter satellite office closes must be permitted to cast his absentee ballot that day.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Final (see Item 8).

**8. Fiscal Implications:** According to the Department of Elections, this bill is not expected to have a fiscal impact on agency operations. The Office of the Executive Secretary of the

Supreme Court reports that this bill is not expected to have a material impact on courts. Any impact this bill may have on localities is not known at this time.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Elections, localities, Courts

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** None.