

Department of Planning and Budget

2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB989

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: Tran

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Elections administration; duties of the Department of Elections; required election participation.

5. Summary: Requires the Department of Elections to provide information for voters on its website, including (i) the role of and contact information for the State Board of Elections, the Department of Elections, local electoral boards, and general registrars and (ii) information about absentee voting, polling hours, Virginia's voter identification requirements and acceptable forms of identification, the casting of ballots, and a means for voters to find their polling place. The bill requires such website to allow a voter to review any information about himself that is kept in the statewide voter registration database. The bill also requires that the Department provide a version of its website in which all parts are translated into any language that is spoken by a language minority group, including that any page linked to a translated page also be translated.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: See below.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary; see below.

8. Fiscal Implications: The proposed legislation would require the Department of Elections (ELECT) to provide voting and election information in any language that is spoken by a language minority group covered under subsection A of § 24.2-128 and other ancillary sites of ELECT (Citizen Portal). Currently, ELECT provides election materials to voters in these specified languages and utilizes Google Translate. The cost to provide the required translated information is not currently known. A statewide bid for these services is currently out and would depend on the amount of material needed that is not currently translated. A detailed analysis of all information that would require a permanent translation has not yet been completed.

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.

February 5, 2024