

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB428

House of Origin	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: VanValkenburg

3. Committee: Passed Both Houses

4. Title: Elections; conduct of election; ranked choice voting; locally elected offices; report.

5. Summary: Allows elections for any local or constitutional office to be conducted by ranked choice voting. Under current law, only elections of members of a county board of supervisors or a city council are allowed to be conducted by ranked choice voting. The bill also clarifies requirements for conducting elections using ranked choice voting and requires results for elections conducted by ranked choice voting to be reported along with other results reported on election night, except that such results must clearly be identified as preliminary and based on the first rankings in a ranked choice voting election. The bill provides that final tabulation for an election for a local or constitutional office is required to be conducted on the same day as other results are canvassed by the local electoral board and that final tabulation for an election for a local or constitutional office that is shared by more than one county or city is required to be conducted at a centralized facility under the supervision of the electoral boards. The bill specifies that ranking data is required to be made publicly available by the Department of Elections and requires the State Board of Elections to provide standards and to approve vote tabulating software for use with existing voting systems in elections conducted by ranked choice voting. Risk-limiting audits of elections conducted using ranked choice voting are limited to the first-choice rankings reported on voting systems. The State Board is required to produce generalized voter education materials on ranked choice voting. The State Board is also permitted to create and modify recount procedures to the extent necessary to accommodate a recount or an election. Finally, the bill directs the Department to review the testing and approval framework for voting equipment in the Commonwealth and submit a report of such review no later than the first day of the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: No state fiscal impact.

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 approval of a high volume of bills that require the development or redesign of forms could result in the need for additional resources.

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.

March 27, 2024