# Department of Planning and Budget 2025 General Assembly Session State Fiscal Impact Statement

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Bill Number: HB 1652 Patron: Wyatt

**Bill Title:** Elections: voter identification containing photograph required, availability of absentee

voting

Bill Summary: Requires presentation of a form of identification containing a photograph in order to vote and provides that a voter who does not have one of the required forms of identification is entitled to cast a provisional ballot. The bill repeals a provision that would permit any person who is qualified to register to vote to do so in person up to and including the day of the election and limits the persons who are entitled to register to vote after the close of registration records to members of a uniformed service on active duty, persons who are residing temporarily outside of the United States, and their spouses and dependents. The bill limits the period during which absentee voting in person is available from 45 days preceding the date of the election to the 14 days preceding the date of the election. The bill requires that absentee ballots returned by mail be returned to the office of the general registrar by the close of polls on election day and be postmarked on or before the Saturday preceding the date of the election. The bill eliminates the use of drop-off locations for the return of absentee ballots. The bill requires absentee ballot applications to contain the last four digits of the applicant's social security number.

**Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes **Items Impacted:** Item 77, Item 428

**Explanation:** See below

**Fiscal Summary:** There is an indeterminate fiscal impact to the state. The provisions of the bill add responsibilities to the Department of Elections and the Department of Motor Vehicles.

### **General Fund Expenditure Impact:**

| <u>Agency</u>                     | FY2025 | <u>FY2026</u> | FY2027   | <u>FY2028</u> | <u>FY2029</u> | <u>FY2030</u> |
|-----------------------------------|--------|---------------|----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| The<br>Department of<br>Elections | -      | \$120,881     | \$22,979 | \$22,979      | \$22,979      | \$22,979      |
|                                   |        |               |          |               |               |               |

## **Nongeneral Fund Expenditure Impact:**

| <u>Agency</u> | FY2025 | <u>FY2026</u> | <u>FY2027</u> | <u>FY2028</u> | FY2029 | FY2030 |
|---------------|--------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------|--------|
| ·             |        |               |               |               |        |        |

#### TOTAL

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### **Position Impact:**

| Agency | <u>FY2025</u> | <u>FY2026</u> | <u>FY2027</u> | FY2028 | <u>FY2029</u> | <u>FY2030</u> |
|--------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------|---------------|---------------|
| TOTAL  |               |               |               |        |               |               |

**Fiscal Analysis:** Due to the provisions of this bill there is an indeterminate fiscal impact to the state. This bill mandates that the Department of Elections (ELECT) provide free photo identification cards to voters who lack one of the forms of identification specified in subsection B of § 24.2-643, Code of Virginia, for voting purposes. ELECT must supply each general registrar with the necessary equipment to capture photographs and signatures, which will then be submitted to the department to create the identification cards. Based on the retail cost of the equipment, ELECT estimates that each set of camera and signature capture pad equipment will cost approximately \$777.

The initial one-time cost to purchase camera and signature capture equipment for all localities, based on these cost estimates, is projected to be \$103,341. However, the actual number of localities that still have functioning equipment from previous photo identification initiatives is unknown, meaning the number of localities requiring new equipment may be lower than initially anticipated.

The bill also allows ELECT to contract out the production and distribution of the voter identification cards. The current estimated retail cost to produce each identification card is \$8.77. For example, if 2000 voter identification cards are needed the cost to the Department of Elections would be \$17,540. Elections also assumes a replacement rate of five percent for equipment annually totaling to \$5,439. This would make yearly ongoing costs for the provisions of this bill \$22,979. While these retail cost estimates are the best available at this time, ELECT anticipates that the actual costs, once the contract is bid out, will likely be lower.

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) in accordance with § 24.2-411.3 shall provide assistance as required in providing voter photo identification cards. The fiscal impact to the DMV is indeterminate however it was stated that a moderate IT effort would be necessary to implement the previsions of the bill.

Other: N/A