

Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

PUBLISHED: 1/26/2026 10:29 AM

ORIGINAL

Bill Number: SB176

Patron: VanValkenburg

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

Bill Summary: Expands the option to use ranked choice voting from only elections for county board of supervisors and city councils to any local governing body. The bill 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. The bill provides for copying damaged or defective ballots that cannot be properly counted by electronic voting systems. The bill allows localities to request risk-limiting audits of elections conducted using ranked choice voting and provides that no such election may be included in any random drawing required to satisfy the general requirements for risk-limiting audits. The bill specifies that the State Board is required to produce generalized voter education materials on ranked choice voting and is also permitted to create and modify recount procedures to the extent necessary to accommodate a recount of an election. The bill directs the Department of Elections 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 2027 Regular Session of the General Assembly. Finally, the bill repeals the 2031 expiration of the option to use ranked choice voting in elections, making such option permanent.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No

Items Impacted: N/A

Explanation: N/A

Fiscal Summary: There is no anticipated state fiscal impact as a result of the provisions of this bill.

Fiscal Analysis: As stand-alone legislation, the Department of Elections considers implementation of this bill as “routine,” and does not require additional funding.

Other: HB630