

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

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ORIGINAL

**Bill Number:** HB89

**Patron:** Cole, J.G.

**Bill Title:** Elections; candidates for office; electronic filing of forms, petitions, and notifications with Department of Elections.

**Bill Summary:** Requires the Department of Elections to develop and implement an online filing system to accept any form, petition, or notification filed by electronic means by a party official or candidate. The bill requires the State Board of Elections to develop standards for the electronic preparation, production, submission, and transmittal of all forms required of party officials and candidates. The bill also requires the State Board to prescribe all candidate and party forms in both paper and electronic formats. The bill allows for the collection of petition signatures by electronic means and provides formal requirements for signatures on electronic petitions. The bill makes technical amendments to provide uniformity in requirements for all such electronic filings.

**Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes

**Items Impacted:** Item 77

**Explanation:** See Below

**Fiscal Summary:** There will be a fiscal impact to the Department of Elections as a result of the provisions of this bill.

**General Fund Expenditure Impact:**

Agency	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031
	-	\$745,024	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	-	<b>\$745,024</b>	-	-	-	-

**Fiscal Analysis:** This bill requires the Department of Elections (ELECT) to develop and implement an online filing system to accept any form, petition, or notification filed by electronic means by a party official or candidate. The bill requires the State Board of Elections to develop standards for the electronic preparation, production, submission, and transmittal of all forms required of party officials and candidates with the capabilities to continue to receive forms via paper. Currently ELECT infrastructure does not have the capacity to implement the requirements of the bill. ELECT current implementation of a new state voter registration system and anticipation of a new campaign finance system does not have the requested functions of the bill. ELECT propose to develop a system that can incorporate the requirements of the bill and position the agency to expand its ability to receive information from parties or candidates. To develop this system, ELECT estimates that it will cost \$745,024. ELECT will need 5 full-time equivalent employees for 1920 hours each at a

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blended rate of \$67.19 plus an additional \$100,000 for VITA services and platform charges. The cost will be one time with FY28 implementation.

**Other:** N/A