

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

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**ORIGINAL**

**Bill Number:** SB162

**Patron:** Locke

**Bill Title:** Voter registration; restoration of political rights upon release from incarceration; certain adjudications.

**Bill Summary:** Provides that any person who loses his political rights as a result of a felony conviction shall be invested with those rights upon his release from incarceration and shall be entitled to register to vote. The bill directs the Department of Corrections and the State Board of Local and Regional Jails to transmit to the Department of Elections certain information for incarcerated persons with a pending date of release and requires the Department of Elections to process the information and make the necessary changes to the voter registration system to permit such persons to register to vote by the date of the person's scheduled date of release. On the date of an incarcerated person's release, the appropriate authority is required by the bill to provide a voter registration application, information on returning the form by mail or completing it by electronic means, and an official release document to serve as a safety net for voter registration. The bill also amends the language regarding adjudications of mental incompetency for purposes of being qualified to vote; a person adjudicated to lack the capacity to understand the act of voting shall not be entitled to vote until that capacity has been reestablished.

**Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes

**Items Impacted:** Item 77, Item 415

**Explanation:** See Below

**Fiscal Summary:** There is an anticipated fiscal impact as a result of the provisions of this bill. The Department of Elections and Virginia State Police have both stated there will be a fiscal impact to their agencies. The Department of Motor Vehicles has stated that the provisions will not create a fiscal impact. At this time the effects of this bill to the Department of Corrections are unknown. As information is provided the fiscal impact statement will be updated.

**General Fund Expenditure Impact:**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>FY2026</b>	<b>FY2027</b>	<b>FY2028</b>	<b>FY2029</b>	<b>FY2030</b>	<b>FY2031</b>
The Department of Elections	-	\$50,400	-	-	-	
Virginia State Police	-	\$165,000	\$33,000	-	-	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$215,400</b>	<b>\$33,000</b>			

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**Fiscal Analysis:** This bill requires the Department of Elections (ELECT) to process information it receives and update the voter registration system to allow individuals who are incarcerated to register to vote by their scheduled date of release. ELECT will need to make changes to the voter registration system to permit people to register to vote by the scheduled date of release. The voter registration system will need adjustments to receive information from multiple state agencies by the required date. ELECT estimates its cost to be \$50,400 based on the need to employ multiple contractors for approximately 480 hours at a cost of \$105 per hour to implement. This is a one-time cost. Based on timing and other actions outside of ELECT, funding may be required prior to July 1.

HB964 also creates a fiscal impact for the Virginia Department of State Police (VSP). The bill requires modification to the file transmitted from VSP to the Virginia Department of Elections. Information technology (IT) costs are estimated based on the number of sprints required to make the modification as well as the cost of IT developers and project management staff. The breakdown of the costs to VSP are provided below.

Item 415	Year One Cost	Year Two Cost
IT development costs	\$165,000.00	\$33,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$165,000.00</b>	<b>\$33,000.00</b>
 <b>Total Year One Cost</b>	 \$165,000.00	
<b>Total Year Two Cost</b>	<b>\$33,000.00</b>	
<b>Total All</b>	<b>\$198,000.00</b>	

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles stated they do not expect a fiscal impact due to the provisions of this bill. The effects of this bill to the Department of Corrections are unknown at this time. As more information is provided the fiscal impact will be updated.

**Other:** Same legislation as HB964.