1   SENATE BILL NO. 658
2   AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
3   (Proposed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections
4   on February 3, 2026)
5   (Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Rouse)

6   *A BILL to direct the Department of Elections to convene a work group on the implementation of back-end,*

7   *opt-out automatic voter registration.*

8   **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

9   **1.** *§ 1. The Department of Elections (ELECT) shall convene a work group for the purpose of studying the*

10   *implementation of back-end, opt-out automatic voter registration (AVR) in the Commonwealth. The work*

11   *group shall consist of representatives from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, the Virginia*

12   *Information Technologies Agency, the Office of the Attorney General, members of the House and Senate*

13   *Committees on Privileges and Elections, general registrars and other local governmental officials, and*

14   *representatives from organizations advocating for or working on voting rights and data privacy, in addition*

15   *to any other persons deemed necessary by ELECT.*

16   *The focus of the work group shall be the move from Virginia's current front-end, opt-out AVR to back-end,*

17   *opt-out AVR. The work group shall consider the effectiveness, efficiency, and security of back-end, opt-out*

18   *AVR as compared to front-end, opt-out AVR and identify the costs and benefits of implementing back-end,*

19   *opt-out AVR in the Commonwealth. The work group shall identify current obstacles to implementation,*

20   *including the capacity of current technology infrastructure, and estimate potential upfront and ongoing costs*

21   *of back-end, opt-out AVR.*

22   *ELECT shall submit a report to the Chairs of the House and Senate Committees on Privileges and*

23   *Elections with its findings by November 1, 2026. Such report shall include recommendations for legislative*

24   *action, if the work group is making any.*