

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB319

Patron: Hernandez

Bill Title: Department of Elections; work group on back-end, opt-out automatic voter registration.

Bill Summary: Directs the Department of Elections to convene a work group for the purpose of studying the implementation of back-end, opt-out automatic voter registration. The work group will include representatives of the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Virginia Information Technologies Agency, and the Office of the Attorney General, in addition to members of the House and Senate Committees on Privileges and Elections, general registrars, and organizations advocating for or working on voting rights and data privacy. The work group is tasked with considering the effectiveness, efficiency, and security of back-end, opt-out automatic voter registration as compared to Virginia's current front-end, opt-out process, and identifying the costs and benefits of moving to such a system.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes

Items Impacted: Item 77

Explanation: See Below

Fiscal Summary: The provisions of the bill create a fiscal impact for the Department of Elections (ELECT). The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the Virginia Information Technology Agency both state no anticipated fiscal impact.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>	<u>FY2031</u>
The Department of Elections	-	\$9,060	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		\$9,060				

Fiscal Analysis: The Department of Elections (ELECT) anticipates a cost to implement the requirements of the bill. It is uncertain, based on the language of the bill the total composition of the work group and other parameters necessary for the study. Assuming a work group of 20, meeting 3 times with an average mileage for members travel of 100 miles, and the current IRS reimbursement rate of .725, ELECT will pay a reimbursement of \$4,350. Also, assuming that 10 of the 20 members require overnight travel for the 3 meeting, ELECT will incur \$4,710 for overnight costs using the Richmond per diem rate for a total cost of \$9,060

Both the DMV and VITA stated there would be no anticipated fiscal impact as a result of the provisions of this bill.

Other: N/A

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