

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB1056

Patron: Phillips

Bill Title: Voter registration by political party affiliation; partially closed primary elections.

Bill Summary: Adds party affiliation, beginning January 1, 2027, to the information that an applicant is asked to provide when registering to vote. The applicant may indicate that he is an independent. The bill specifies that voters registered prior to January 1, 2027, will be designated as independent unless they provide a political party affiliation to the general registrar. Voters may change their political party affiliation or independent status by written notice at any time before the registration records are closed prior to an election. The bill also provides that voters who are on the permanent absentee voter list will receive primary ballots for the political party with which they are registered as affiliated. Finally, the bill requires the state party chairman of each political party to file written notice with the State Board of Elections by January 31 of each year stating the rules adopted by the duly constituted authorities of the state political party for participation in the party's primaries to be held from April 1 of that year through March 31 of the following year.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes

Items Impacted: Item 77

Explanation: See Below

Fiscal Summary: There is an anticipated state fiscal impact as a result of the provisions of this bill.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

Agency	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031
The Department of Elections		\$117,600	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		\$117,600	-	-	-	-

Fiscal Analysis: The proposed legislation would require the Department of Elections (ELECT) to modify multiple systems and programs to include new registration flags, from registration through report generation. Costs that will be incurred include updating instruction and guidance documents to include translation, changes to the Virginia Registration System, the Citizen Portal, poll book software, web materials, printing and distribution of forms, additional support for staff to research Code sections, and updates to forms impacted by the legislation. ELECT and General Registrars would also need to conduct an education campaign to adequately inform voters of the change. The new Voter Registration System is currently in testing and development with an anticipated calendar year 2027 implementation. Any changes to this system may require

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additional time and resources as there is limited capacity to absorb the additional workload with current staffing levels and timelines. ELECT's preliminary estimate of the one-time cost to make the required changes is \$117,600. Information technology changes are estimated to be \$67,600 based on 520 hours at \$130.00 per hour provided by contractors for system changes. In addition to the technological changes, it is estimated that an additional \$50,000 will be required for form updates, education outreach, and translation services.

Other: N/A