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

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Bill Number: HB78E **Patron:** Price
Bill Title: Elections administration; duties of local electoral boards; certification of election; grounds for removal; civil penalty.

Bill Summary: Provides that the certification of the results of an election is a clear ministerial duty of the local electoral boards and that a member of the local electoral board who neglects or refuses to perform such duty in accordance with law shall be subject to removal proceedings by the State Board of Elections and assessed a civil penalty not exceeding $1,000. The bill also authorizes the State Board of Elections to intervene and carry out the duties related to election certification in the event a local electoral board fails or refuses to do so.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No **Items Impacted:** N/A
Explanation: N/A

Fiscal Summary: There is an indeterminate fiscal impact due to the provisions of this bill creating a civil penalty for members of local electoral boards who neglect or refuse to perform their duties in accordance with law.

Fiscal Analysis: The fiscal impact of this bill is indeterminate due to the uncertainty surrounding the number of civil penalties that may be assessed. The bill establishes that any member of a local electoral board who neglects or refuses to fulfill their duties in accordance with the law will be removed and subject to a civil penalty not exceeding $1,000. This penalty will be directed to the Voter Education and Outreach Fund, as outlined in § 24.2-131. Additionally, the bill grants the State Board of Elections the authority to intervene and assume responsibility for election certification if a local electoral board fails or refuses to do so. Since the State Board already intervenes, when necessary, these provisions are considered routine and will not require additional funding.

If there is an excessive number of interventions for an election cycle ELECT may require funding based on the locality and complexity of the election. ELECT assistance for employees could be from 8 to 80 hours to complete the task required. Based on the estimated hours and a fully loaded salary ($46.58) for the area that would be responsible for the duties it's estimated that the agency could incur a cost from $372.64 to $3,726.40 to cover the requirement of the bill per locality.

Other: N/A