

## Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB440

**House of Origin**     Introduced     Substitute     Engrossed  
**Second House**     In Committee     Substitute     Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Cole

3. **Committee:** Privileges and Elections

4. **Title:** Elections; candidates for office; electronic filing of forms, petitions, and notifications.

5. **Summary:** The bill requires the Department of Elections to develop and implement an online filing system to accept any form, petition, or notification filed by electronic means by a party official or candidate. The bill requires the State Board of Elections to develop standards for the electronic preparation, production, submission, and transmittal of all forms required of party officials and candidates. The bill also requires the State Board to prescribe all candidate and party forms in both paper and electronic formats. The bill allows for the collection of petition signatures by electronic means and provides formal requirements for signatures on electronic petitions. The bill makes technical amendments to provide uniformity in requirements for all such electronic filings.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes; see below.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary; see below.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The fiscal impact of this bill is indeterminate. This bill would require the Department of Elections (ELECT) to and develop and implement an online filing system to electronically accept any notification, form, or petition required for office. These forms are currently collected on paper.

Further details regarding the requirements related to the security and technology of this bill would be needed to estimate the fiscal impact of this bill. To achieve the goals of this bill, the agency has options to explore form enhancements to current systems or develop a stand-alone system.

ELECT's current resources are focused on the completion of the new Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) scheduled to come on-line in calendar year 2025. Any changes, updates, or standalone IT projects would require additional resources.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Virginia Department of Elections, State Board of Elections, and localities (General Registrars and Electoral Boards).

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** None.

January 18, 2024