

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

**1. Bill Number:** HB694

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

**2. Patron:** O'Quinn

**3. Committee:** Committee Referral Pending

**4. Title:** Elections; absentee voting; counting ballots prior to the close of polls.

**5. Summary:** Allows officers of election at a central absentee precinct to begin ascertaining and recording the number of votes cast by absentee ballots at any time after noon on the day of the election. Under current law, absentee ballots that are counted by hand may be tallied, but not counted, at any time after noon on the day of the election, and no ballot totals for any absentee ballots shall be ascertained until after polls close. The bill also clarifies that vote totals for absentee ballots cast in person on voting systems cannot be determined until the day of the election. The bill also requires that general registrars begin processing absentee ballots on the fourteenth day prior to the day of the election. Under current law such processing is not required until the seventh day prior to the day of the election.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary; no state fiscal impact.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** The proposed legislation is not expected to have a state fiscal impact.

**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