

Department of Planning and Budget

2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB305

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☒ Substitute ☐ Engrossed
Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Ransone

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: State Board of Elections; membership; Commissioner of Elections.

5. Summary: Expands the membership of the State Board of Elections from five to seven members. The bill also gives the State Board of Elections the authority and duty to appoint the Commissioner of Elections of the Department of Elections. The appointment and removal of the Commissioner require an affirmative vote of five of the seven Board members. In the event that a vacancy occurs in the office of the Commissioner, the Director of Operations at the Department shall be vested with the powers and shall perform all of the duties of the Commissioner until the Board appoints a person to fill the vacancy. The bill also applies the provisions of the Virginia Personnel Act to the chief deputy and confidential assistant for policy or administration for the Department of Elections. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2023.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: See Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: The expected impact of this bill is considered absorbable and does not require additional funding.

This bill would increase membership of the State Board of Elections (the Board) from five to seven members. The Department of Elections estimates an annual cost of \$3,104 per additional Board member. This estimate is based on the following annual cost for a new member at current rates: four days of lodging and per diems at a cost of \$836.00 (lodging \$580, per diem \$256), \$63 for parking, and \$245 for travel per meeting for the nine meetings currently held each year. The average assumed travel distance is 418 miles and was calculated based on the average distance to the State Board of Elections' office from the following three locations: Winchester City in the valley region, Accomack County in the eastern region, and Bristol City in the southwestern region of the Commonwealth. Actual travel costs depend on the distance traveled by an individual member. The total estimated cost for fiscal year 2023 is \$3,104 due to the delayed effective date, with ongoing annual costs of \$6,208 thereafter.

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.

Date: 2/14/2022