

Department of Planning and Budget

2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB528

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: Batten

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Absentee voting; unsolicited absentee ballot applications, required information.

5. Summary: Requires any individual or organization sending an application for an absentee ballot to a registered voter that was not solicited or requested by the registered voter to include with the application instructions on completing the application and submitting it to the appropriate general registrar. The bill requires a statement that the application is not being sent by any state or local government official or agency on the envelope containing the application or on the first page of any enclosed materials. Such individuals and organizations are required to use the information provided in the list of registered voters acquired by such individual or organization from the Department of Elections pursuant to law, and a violation of this requirement is a Class 4 misdemeanor. The bill requires the Department of Elections to ensure, when providing the list of registered voters to such individual or organization for purposes of sending unsolicited absentee ballot applications, that no voter is included on the list provided if such voter has applied for an absentee ballot on or before the date the list is requested. The bill also provides that no absentee ballot sent to a registered voter that was not solicited or requested by the registered voter may be pre-populated with information the applicant is required to provide.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: See Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: The proposed legislation is not expected to have a fiscal impact on the Department of Elections.

Misdemeanors – Class 4

A Class 4 misdemeanor is punishable by a fine of up to \$250. All revenue collected from such fines is deposited into the Literary Fund. However, it is not possible to estimate either the number of convictions that may result or the amount of each fine that may be assessed under this legislation. Therefore, the impact of this bill cannot be determined.

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: 1/26/2022