

Department of Planning and Budget 2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB552

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: Chase

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Absentee voting; excuse required to vote absentee by mail; signature match.

5. Summary: Requires a registered voter to provide a reason for being absent or unable to vote at his polling place on election day in order to receive an absentee ballot to vote by mail. The bill requires a voter voting absentee by mail to open his ballot in the presence of a notary who must sign the ballot return envelope. The bill requires that the general registrar match the signature of the voter on an absentee return envelope to a signature that the general registrar has on file before processing the ballot. If the signature doesn't match, the absentee ballot is to be treated as a provisional vote subject to approval by the electoral board. The bill also repeals the permanent absentee voter list and limits the special annual application to those voters with an illness or disability.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary; see Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: As stand-alone legislation, the Department of Elections considers implementation of this bill as "routine," and does not require additional funding.

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: 1/24/2022