

Department of Planning and Budget 2021 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB2209

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

2. Patron: Gilbert

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Absentee voting; signature match; provisional ballot status.

5. Summary: Requires the signature on the voter affirmation statement on an absentee ballot return envelope to match the signature of the voter on the application for the absentee ballot or the signature of the voter on file in his registration record. The general registrars are required to review the affirmation statement upon receipt of an absentee ballot returned by mail and to compare the signatures. An absentee ballot that is missing the signature or has a signature that does not match shall be handled as a provisional ballot. The voter is entitled to submit a cure affidavit, affirming that the ballot was submitted by him, is his ballot, and that he is registered and qualified to vote in such election, and a copy of a form of identification containing his name, signature, and photograph, until noon on the third day following the election. If, at the electoral board meeting for determining the validity of provisional votes, a majority of the board finds that the signature on the cure affidavit matches the signature on the absentee ballot, the vote shall be counted. Notice to the voter is required by email, text message, or telephone call, and if the absentee ballot is received on or before the seventh day preceding the election, by first-class mail as well.

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, General Registrars, and localities.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 1/18/2021