

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB131

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

2. Patron: Ruff

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Primary elections; candidates for nomination; withdrawal of candidacy.

5. Summary: Provides that if a person who is a candidate for nomination by a political party at a primary election and who appears on the ballot for such election withdraws his candidacy on or after the forty-fourth day before but prior to the Tuesday immediately preceding the primary election, and the result of such withdrawal is one remaining candidate who is now unopposed, the remaining candidate will be declared the party's nominee for the office sought and the primary election will be canceled. The bill requires the notice of withdrawal to be signed and notarized and to be submitted to the general registrar, who then transmits it to the local electoral board and the State Board of Elections, along with a certification that the remaining candidate is now unopposed for nomination. The State Board is required to declare the remaining candidate to be the nominee within one calendar day of receiving such notice, and the local electoral board is then required to petition the circuit court for the cancellation of the primary election. Finally, the bill directs the State Board to prescribe procedures for canceling a primary election, including instructions for locking and securing voting systems, disposition of marked and unmarked absentee ballots, and voter notification. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2025.

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: This bill is a companion to HB55.