

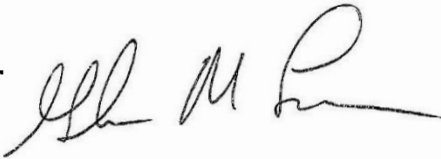
Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Glen Lee
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Glen Lee
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: November 3, 2022

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Automatic Voter Registration Expansion
Amendment Act of 2022

REFERENCE: Bill 24-951, Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue
Analysis on October 17, 2022

Conclusion

Funds are not sufficient in the fiscal year 2023 through fiscal year 2026 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The bill has no costs in fiscal year 2023 but will cost \$567,000 in fiscal year 2024 and a total of \$624,000 over the financial plan.

Background

The District currently operates an automatic voter registration (AVR) system which allows qualified electors to register to vote when applying for identification from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). The AVR system used in the District is an opt-out system which gives electors the opportunity to opt out of being automatically registered to vote at the time of transaction with the DMV. The bill changes¹ the current AVR system so that DMV customers may only opt-out from AVR through a mailer sent to the qualified elector's home by the Board of Elections (BOE).

Under the bill, the DMV must submit certain information² to the BOE for each person who applies for a driver's license (including any renewal or correction) or nondriver's identification card, provides documentation demonstrating United States citizenship during the person's transaction with the

¹ By amending the District of Columbia Election Code of 1955, approved August 12, 1955 (69 Stat. 699; D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.01 et seq.).

² Including the persons legal name, date of birth, residence, mailing address, DMV-issued identification, number or social security number, citizenship information, and electronic signature, if available.

DMV, is of sufficient age to register to vote or to preregister to vote, or is not already registered to vote in the District. The BOE must verify a voter's eligibility to register and place them on a preapproved registration list. The BOE must send each preapproved voter a mailer within fourteen days with instructions on how to activate their registration. A resident may activate their voter registration by returning the mailer sent by the BOE, accessing the digital voter service system, appearing in person at the BOE, appearing to vote in person, or by returning a general election mail-in ballot. The BOE must automatically send individuals on the preapproved registration list a mail-in ballot in general elections for four years after they are added to the preapproved registration list and remain on the list.

The bill also requires the DMV to notify the BOE if a registered or preregistered voter submits a change of name or address notice to the DMV or supplies a name or address as part of a driver's license or nondriver's identification card application, renewal, or correction that differs from the voter's name or address in the voter roll. The DMV must automatically and electronically transmit the information necessary to update the voter registrations to the BOE.

The bill also adds the Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) as an AVR agency. The bill requires DHCF to send the BOE electronic records³ for all applicants for the District's Medicaid and Alliance programs to review for voter eligibility. In addition, the bill allows the BOE to designate additional AVR agencies by rulemaking.

The bill has an applicability date of January 1, 2025.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are not sufficient in the fiscal year 2023 through fiscal year 2026 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. The bill has no costs in fiscal year 2023 but will cost \$567,000 in fiscal year 2024 and a total of \$624,000 over the financial plan.

The BOE will require additional funding to implement expanded AVR beginning in fiscal year 2024. The agency expects to receive approximately 25,000 preapproved voter referrals from AVR agencies each year. The BOE will need to mail ballots to residents on the preapproved list for each general election, pay for additional postage, conduct outreach and messaging, and send mailers to preapproved voters. The BOE must also update its IT systems to ensure that the preapproved voter list interfaces with the current voter registration system. The total cost to the BOE is \$67,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$124,000 over the financial plan.

Bill 24-951, Automatic Voter Registration Expansion Amendment Act of 2022 Board of Elections Total Cost					
	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	Total
Mail-in Ballot Printing and Postage ^(a)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Voter Outreach Materials	\$0	\$0	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$36,000
Mailers to Preapproved Voters	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$11,000	\$21,000
IT Updates	\$0	\$67,000	\$0	\$0	\$67,000
Total	\$0	\$67,000	\$28,000	\$29,000	\$124,000

³ The records include the person's legal name, date of birth, residence, mailing address, DMV-issued identification number or social security number, citizenship information, and electronic signature, if available.

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 24-951, "Automatic Voter Registration Expansion Amendment Act of 2022," Draft Committee Print as provided to the Office of Revenue Analysis on October 17, 2022

Table Notes:

- (a) Every general election beginning with the 2027 general election will require approximately \$80,000 to print and mail ballots to preapproved voters.

The DMV will need to update its IT system to allow for the automatic electronic transfer of address changes and name changes to the BOE. The DMV currently sends voter data to the BOE but does not have live access to the voter registration database. The DMV will need a two-way link between the BOE voter database and the DMV system to determine whether a person is registered to vote and if an address or name is different than what was provided to the DMV during its transaction with a resident. The estimated cost of the IT update necessary to facilitate the automatic electronic transfer of address and name changes is \$500,000 in fiscal year 2024. The Office of Revenue Analysis will update this cost when the DMV receives additional information from vendors on the scope and cost of updating the IT system.

Bill 24-951, Automatic Voter Registration Expansion Amendment Act of 2022					
Department of Motor Vehicles Total Cost					
	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	Total
IT Update	\$0	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	\$500,000

DHCF has the capability to transfer preapproved voter information to the BOE. DHCF can implement the bill without additional resources.

Bill 24-951, Automatic Voter Registration Expansion Amendment Act of 2022					
Total Cost					
	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	Total
Board of Elections	\$0	\$67,000	\$28,000	\$29,000	\$124,000
Department of Motor Vehicles	\$0	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	\$500,000
Total	\$0	\$567,000	\$28,000	\$29,000	\$624,000