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## **Voter Photo ID Could Cost Virginia Millions**

### ***SB1256 could cost between \$7.3 and \$21.8 million***

RICHMOND, VA - A bill being considered by the Virginia General Assembly -- SB1256 -- imposes burdensome new voter identification requirements, could cost Virginia millions of dollars to implement, and may ensnare Virginia in costly litigation. As currently drafted, this legislation would require photo proof of identification at the polling place.

Implementation of SB1256 could cost Virginia between \$7.3 million and \$21.8 million.

But in order to pass constitutional muster, a photo identification requirement must be accompanied by a number of actions on the part of the state in order to minimize the impact on potential voters. This includes (1) the provision of free photo IDs to voters who do not have a valid photo ID, including making the process of getting an ID accessible and no-cost, and (2) undertaking a public education and outreach campaign to inform voters of the new requirements. In addition to these constitutional requirements, Virginia would face new costs due to the need to (1) provide training to local election officials to ensure proper implementation of the new provisions and (2) process additional provisional ballots.

"At a time when Virginia continues to face ongoing budget challenges to fund core services like public education, transportation and health care, it makes no sense for us to be adding new costs through burdensome voter ID requirements," says Michael Cassidy, president of The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis.

The complete report is available at [www.thecommonwealthinstitute.org](http://www.thecommonwealthinstitute.org).

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### **About The Commonwealth Institute**

The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis provides credible, independent and accessible information and analyses of fiscal and economic issues with particular attention to the impacts on low- and moderate-income persons. Our products inform fiscal and budget policy debates and contribute to sound decisions that improve the well-being of individuals, communities and Virginia as a whole. Visit [www.thecommonwealthinstitute.org](http://www.thecommonwealthinstitute.org) for more information.