



## State Fiscal Note for Bill Number: 2018-H-7287

**Date of State Budget Office Approval:**

**Date Requested:** Wednesday, May 09, 2018

**Date Due:** Saturday, May 19, 2018

| <i>Impact on Expenditures</i> |                 | <i>Impact on Revenues</i> |     |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-----|
| FY 2018                       | \$0             | FY 2018                   | \$0 |
| FY 2019                       | \$0 – \$350,000 | FY 2019                   | \$0 |
| FY 2020                       | \$0 – \$219,000 | FY 2020                   | \$0 |

**Explanation by State Budget Office:**

This bill amends RIGL title 42, chapter 46, entitled “Open Meetings”, adding a chapter requiring that public bodies, subject to open meetings laws, take audio and video recordings of all open meetings. Public bodies would submit the recordings to the Secretary of State’s Office to post on its website within one business day. The bill would not apply to public bodies that are solely advisory in nature.

**Comments on Sources of Funds:**

The fiscal note assumes that additional expenditures incurred by the Secretary of State’s Office would be paid with general revenue as the agency’s FY 2019 Governor-recommended budget is 95.7% funded with general revenue.

**Summary of Facts and Assumptions:**

According to the Secretary of State’s Office in FY 2017, there were 1,314 entities that could be affected by the law, having a collective meeting total of 13,122. This fiscal note assumes no expenditures in FY 2018, and assumes that bill would affect state and municipal government beginning in FY 2019. The main impact on state government would be the costs the Secretary of State’s Office (Office) would incur to host the audio and video files. In a letter sent to the House Judiciary Committee in early May regarding House bill 7717, the Office explored three options. First, housing the videos on YouTube, which would limit the Office’s control over the videos as they could be removed at any time. Second, increasing the storage and performance capabilities of the Office’s website to handle the volume of required files that would be posted. The agency estimated this would cost an additional \$6,500 per year; however, the public would have to download the files on their own devices to listen to and view the meetings. Third, the Office received bids from two vendors to house and stream the files. The first vendor estimated the cost at \$100,000 per year, plus a one-time \$250,000 infrastructure charge. The second vendor noted the cost would be \$219,000 per year to host videos, without a streaming option. Costs could range from \$0 to \$350,000 in the first fiscal year, and \$0 - \$219,000 per year each year thereafter, depending on the option selected.

In addition to internet storage costs, there could be additional costs to other state agencies. The bill would require that public entities have the capabilities to take audio and video recordings. Some entities may lack this capability; therefore, some public bodies would need to purchase audio and video recording devices. There could also be additional personnel expenditures required if employees are needed to assist with recording the meetings. Municipal public bodies could also incur similar costs, but these costs would be reflected as municipal expenditures, and not expenditures from the General Fund. Without knowing how many state and local entities have video and audio capabilities at the present time, it is difficult to

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Wednesday, May 16, 2018

Page 1 of 2

*Summary of Fiscal  
Impact:*

determine the type and quantity of equipment that would have to be purchased, or the additional staff time required. The fiscal note does not include these expenditures in its assumptions, but some additional expenditures would most likely be required.

The Budget Office projects additional expenditures in the Secretary of State's budget related to the storage and hosting of required files, detailed below:

FY 2018: \$0  
FY 2019: \$0 – \$350,000  
FY 2020: \$0 – \$219,000

*Budget Office Signature:*

*Fiscal Advisor Signature:*

