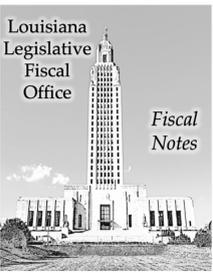


**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note**



Fiscal Note On: **HB 627** HLS 26RS 1353
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: March 29, 2026 4:20 PM	Author: KNOX
Dept./Agy.: Public Entities Created by Law	
Subject: Live-stream Video and Recording of Public Meetings	Analyst: Garrett Ordner

PUBLIC MEETINGS OR INCREASE LF EX See Note Page 1 of 2
 Provides relative to live-stream video and recording of the public meetings of entities created by law

Present law provides that each nonelected board or commission that has the authority to levy a tax must record or broadcast live all proceedings in a public meeting. Present law provides that public meetings must be broadcast live when the meeting is held by (1) the parish governing authority in a parish with a population of twenty-five thousand or more; (2) each school board in a parish with a population of twenty-five thousand or more; and (3) each governing authority of a municipality with a population of ten thousand or more.

Proposed law provides that each public entity created by law shall video record and broadcast live all proceedings in a public meeting.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	SEE BELOW					
Agy. Self-Gen.	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Ded./Other	SEE BELOW					
Federal Funds	SEE BELOW					
Local Funds	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Annual Total						
REVENUES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed law will result in increased costs to state and local public entities to broadcast and record public meetings if they do not already do so. Total costs will depend on the number of public entities subject to proposed law and the methods they use to broadcast and record public meetings, but given the large number of entities subject to proposed law, even minor expenses incurred by individual entities will be significant in the aggregate. The means of finance for broadcasting meetings of state boards and commissions is assumed to be SGR; to the extent that these entities or other state entities subject to proposed law utilize a different means of finance, that means of finance will be impacted as well.

It is unclear how proposed law defines a "public entity created by law." For purposes of this fiscal note, LFO assumes the term is synonymous with "public body." The chapter of statute that would contain proposed law defines "public body" to include "village, town, and city governing authorities; parish governing authorities; school boards and boards of levee and port commissioners; boards of publicly operated utilities; planning, zoning, and airport commissions; and any other state, parish, municipal, or special district boards, commissions, or authorities, and those of any political subdivision thereof, where such body possesses policy making, advisory, or administrative functions, including any committee or subcommittee of any of these bodies."

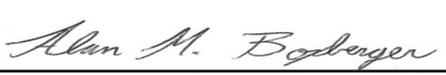
If proposed law applies to these entities, then the number of entities subject to proposed law cannot be easily quantified, but it will number, at least, in the hundreds. For example, there are over 250 municipalities in Louisiana whose governing authorities are not subject to broadcasting requirements under present law but will be subject to broadcasting and recording requirements under proposed law. At the state level, this will include regulatory and occupational licensing boards as well as their committees and subcommittees. Proposed law appears to also include advisory councils and committees established by the legislature, which may not currently receive any funding. If these entities are subject to proposed law, they will require either state funding for broadcasting equipment or a properly equipped meeting space in order to comply with proposed law.

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

REVENUE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

<u>Senate</u>	<u>Dual Referral Rules</u>	<u>House</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}		<input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}
<input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}		<input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}


Alan M. Boxberger
Legislative Fiscal Officer



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CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:

Page 2 of 2

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

State entities meeting in Baton Rouge may potentially comply with proposed law by meeting in spaces that are currently equipped for streaming. These include several rooms in the Claiborne Conference Center with half-day rates ranging from \$100 to \$800, as well as the capitol committee rooms, which state boards and commissions may use without charge. However, given the large number of state entities subject to proposed law, it is unclear that such facilities would be sufficient for all such meetings.

For public entities that choose to equip their current meeting space for streaming, costs associated with broadcasting meetings will vary significantly depending on the equipment and methodology used to broadcast the meeting. The lowest-cost option may be a smartphone or inexpensive webcam broadcasting to a free streaming platform such as YouTube or Facebook Live. This may not carry any cost; however, it may result in such poor audio and video quality that limit clarity.

While researching a similar bill in 2024, LFO corresponded with two school districts regarding the equipment they currently use for broadcasting school board meetings. One school district reported using a \$50,000 audiovisual configuration in its meeting room, including three cameras that cost approximately \$2,500 each. Conversely, another district reported using two Panasonic HC-V180 cameras, which retail for approximately \$250 each, in addition to equipment for video switching and audio mixing, which retail for approximately \$1,000. However, sophisticated audio-visual equipment may not be needed for small meetings using a single-camera setup.

The Office of Technology Services (OTS) generally does not provide services for local public entities or for many state public entities, but it did provide some cost estimates for streaming equipment. OTS estimates that one-time costs for equipment will range from \$2,000 for a single-camera setup to \$15,000 or more for a multi-camera professional streaming installation. A dedicated streaming platform would cost between \$600 and \$6,000 per year if the entity does not use a free platform such as YouTube. Cloud storage costs for a video archive could cost between \$100 and \$500 per year if a free video platform is not used. Public entities would also need to ensure their meeting location's internet connection has adequate bandwidth for streaming.

Public entities subject to proposed law will need to comply with a US Department of Justice rule governing accessibility of web content provided by state and local governments. The rule will take effect in April of 2026 for state government entities and local governments with a population over 50,000, and in April of 2027 for all other local governments. The rule will require video content to include captions. Public entities will therefore need to ensure that their broadcasting medium provides for captioning. A Zoom Webinar subscription, for example, costs approximately \$800 per year for a maximum of 300 attendees and includes automatic captioning features.

Senate
Dual Referral Rules
 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}
 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House
 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}
 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

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