



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **SB 201** SLS 23RS 206
 Bill Text Version: **ENROLLED**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: June 9, 2023	12:20 PM	Author: HEWITT
Dept./Agy.: Public Bodies and Advisory Councils		Analyst: Garrett Ordner
Subject: Electronic Meetings		

PUBLIC MEETINGS EN SEE FISC NOTE EX See Note Page 1 of 2
 Provides for meetings of boards and commissions via electronic means. (8/1/23)

Proposed law requires public bodies (with certain exceptions) to adopt rules, regulations, and procedures to allow any member of the public with a disability or their caregiver to participate in its meetings via teleconference or video conference upon request if the body has such capabilities, or to otherwise provide alternative means for participation. Proposed law requires public bodies (with certain exceptions) to adopt rules, regulations, and procedures to allow any member of the body with a disability to participate via teleconference or videoconference. Proposed law establishes criteria under which a statewide public body may hold a meeting via electronic means and provides for public participation. Proposed law limits the frequency with which a public body may meet electronically. Proposed law lists public bodies which may not hold meetings via electronic means and public bodies which may hold any meeting via electronic means. Proposed law requires meetings of statewide public bodies held via electronic means to be recorded and archived on the body's website. Proposed law provides for review by the Legislative Auditor of the policies and practices developed pursuant to proposed law.

EXPENDITURES	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Agy. Self-Gen.	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Annual Total						

REVENUES	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	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	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed law may increase costs to statewide public bodies and advisory councils to allow public participation in meetings by electronic means. However, proposed law only provides for public participation via electronic means if the meeting itself is held via electronic means. There will also be costs to local public bodies to the extent that they do not already have the means to allow public participation in meetings by members of the public or members of the public body with disabilities (or their caregivers) by electronic means.

For informational purposes, DOA reports that Zoom is the predominant video conference software utilized by state agencies. The cost for a commercial Zoom license starts at \$150 per year but may be higher depending on the needs of the meeting. Alternatives such as Skype and GoTo Meeting are also available. Additional features such as captioning and webinar software to provide moderated public participation may pose additional costs. For example, a Zoom Webinars license for up to 500 attendees costs \$690 per year. Several statewide public bodies currently archive recordings of their meetings on Youtube, which does not charge for storage. However, the proposed law states that statewide public bodies must store meeting archives on their website. If public bodies are required to host the recordings on their own websites, this will pose indeterminable video or audio storage and web development costs.

The Legislative Auditor (LLA) estimates each review of policies and practices of statewide public bodies related to electronic meetings will cost \$100 to \$200. These costs will ultimately be borne by the public bodies being reviewed.

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 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} |

Evan Brasseaux

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 Interim Deputy Fiscal Officer



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CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:

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EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Proposed law requires most public bodies, including non-statewide public bodies, to allow members of the public body who have a disability to participate and vote in the meeting by teleconference or video conference. For small meetings, this may be accomplished through the use of an ordinary telephone or cellphone. Large meetings which utilize a PA system may require a conference phone that can be connected to the meeting room's PA system. If multiple members of the public body attend via teleconference, the use of a teleconferencing service may be required as well. Conference phones can range in price from \$100 to more than \$500, and teleconferencing services generally cost \$10 to \$20 per month. However, such public bodies may already have access to the necessary teleconferencing equipment.

Proposed law also requires non-statewide public bodies to allow members of the public who have a disability or their caregivers to participate in the meeting by teleconference or videoconference if the body has the capability to do so. For hearing-impaired and speech-impaired individuals participating via teleconference, the state provides telecommunications accessibility services through Louisiana Relay free of charge. Otherwise, the public body must provide alternative means by which these individuals may participate. It is unclear what other methods might be utilized to enable such participation. If these individuals are simply directed to email their comments prior to the meeting, there would be no additional cost.

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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