

**State Fiscal Note for Bill  
 Number: 2015-H-5715**

**Date of State Budget Office Approval:**

**Date Requested:** Monday, April 06, 2015

**Date Due:** Thursday, April 16, 2015

<i>Impact on Expenditures</i>		<i>Impact on Revenues</i>	
FY 2015	Indeterminate	FY 2015	n/a
FY 2016	Indeterminate	FY 2016	n/a
FY 2017	Indeterminate	FY 2017	n/a

**Explanation by State Budget Office:** This bill would require that all public bodies within state government including all state quasi-public boards, make audio and video recordings of all meetings. The legislation also requires that all recordings be transmitted to the Office of the Secretary of State for posting on its website within 35 days of the meeting. Advisory panels and boards would not be subject to this provision.

**Comments on Sources of Funds:** Source of funds for state agencies or departments can be general revenues, federal funds, restricted receipts, other funds, or a combination of one or more of these sources. Source of funds for other state boards or commissions, or for quasi-state agencies varies dependent on the activity of the organization, but are generally considered non-state funds.

**Summary of Facts and Assumptions:** Under current law, 'public body' means any department, agency, commission, committee, board, council, bureau, or authority or any subdivision thereof that receives at least 25.0 percent of its funding from public sources. 'Meeting' means the convening of a public body, including 'workshops', 'working sessions' and 'work sessions'.

Currently, there are 39 state department and agencies (not including the Legislature and Judiciary) and 16 quasi-public agencies that are assumed to be subject to this bill, should it pass into law. The Legislature and Judiciary are not included, because RIGL 42-35-1(1) guiding administrative procedures, exempts these two agencies from the definition of 'Agency'. There are dozens of other commissions, ad hoc committees and boards that exist as either active or inactive entities, but they are not deemed to meet the 25.0 percent state funding criteria as described above.

Meeting minutes from state boards and commissions are already required to be posted on the Secretary of State's website, along with the minutes of municipal council meetings, school committees, library trustee, fire district, and housing authorities, to name a few examples.

**Summary of Fiscal Impact:** The fiscal impact to the state is indeterminate without an inventory of equipment already owned by state departments, and calculation of requirements for new equipment. For quasi-public agencies, there would likely be no state impact, as the source of financing for equipment, if required, would be from revenues generated by program activity. As a point of reference, new audio and video equipment, including microphones, teleprompters, speakers, transmitters, audio mixers and camcorders could cost as much as \$9,000.

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Friday, April 10, 2015

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