

Fiscal Note

BILL # HB 2412

TITLE: open meetings; digital recordings

SPONSOR: Parker

STATUS: As Amended by House GE

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Description

The bill would require public bodies to provide for audio visual recordings of all meetings no later than 24 hours after the meeting. For executive sessions, the bill would require public bodies to provide for audio visual recordings or written minutes no later than 24 hours after the meeting.

Estimated Impact

We anticipate that some state and local government agencies will incur a cost to implement IT and infrastructure improvements and potentially hire additional staff. We do not believe there is a practical method to estimate these costs in a timely fashion.

The Arizona Department of Administration and County Supervisors Association of Arizona have not yet provided an estimate of the fiscal impact of the bill.

Analysis

A.R.S. § 38-431.01 requires all public bodies to provide written minutes or a recording of all meetings, including executive sessions, and that they be made available within 3 workdays of the meeting. Public bodies as defined in A.R.S. § 38-431 includes the Legislature, all state and political subdivision boards, commissions, multimember governing bodies, quasi-judicial bodies, standing, special or advisory committees/subcommittees of, or appointed by, a public body, and public entities established by the Arizona Constitution or by way of ballot initiative. The state has nearly 150 agencies, boards, and commissions, many of which currently provide for some sort of recordings of public meetings. For example, the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission provides for videos of its public committee meetings via an online video sharing platform while the Arizona Department of Education posts audio recordings of its board meetings.

While many state and local agencies, boards, and commissions fulfill current statute by making available written minutes or a recording of meetings within 3 days, the bill would require entities to provide an audio visual recording of meetings within 24 hours.

Local Government Impact

The state has thousands of local and county-level agencies, boards, and commissions, some of which currently provide some sort of recordings of public meetings. The JLBC Staff anticipates some cities and counties will need to implement IT and infrastructure improvements and potentially hire additional staff to meet the bill's requirements. However, as with the state, there is no practical method to estimate these costs in a timely fashion. According to the League of Arizona Cities and Towns, some cities would incur additional costs for equipment and for server space to host digital files and the fiscal impact would depend on the equipment and software that cities purchase but did not provide a specific estimate.

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