

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 169

(Delegate Korman, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

State Board of Elections - Open Meetings - Audio Recordings and Documents
(State Board of Elections Transparency Act)

This bill requires the State Board of Elections (SBE) to (1) create an audio recording of each open meeting of the board; (2) within one business day after an open meeting, make the audio recording of the meeting and each document and handout used or submitted at the meeting, including any material submitted by the public, available to the public on SBE's website; and (3) take any action necessary to ensure that an audio recording of an open meeting is understandable by the public.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill can be implemented with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: SBE's activities include (1) establishing policies governing the administration of elections, through regulations (adopted under State election laws) and guidance; (2) managing and coordinating statewide elections systems, including the voting system and voter registration system; and (3) supervising and supporting local boards of elections. The five-member board meets numerous times each year at its headquarters in Annapolis. Meeting agendas and minutes are posted on the board's website. SBE regulations address public access to and participation in meetings, including

attendance and observation, and recording, photographing, taping, or broadcasting of board proceedings provided that it does not disturb the meeting.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 91 (Senators Kagan and Waugh) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): State Board of Elections; Department of Information Technology; Board of Public Works; Department of Legislative Services

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