

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 184

(Senator Kagan)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

State Board of Elections - Open Meetings - Video Streaming and Recording
(State Board of Elections Transparency Act)

This bill requires the State Board of Elections (SBE), in consultation with the Department of Information Technology (DoIT), to make publicly available on the Internet (1) each meeting agenda, made available at least 24 hours in advance of each meeting; (2) live video streaming of each open meeting of SBE; and (3) a complete, unedited archived video recording of each open meeting for a minimum of four years after the date of the meeting. SBE must prepare written minutes of each meeting as soon as practicable after the meeting. DoIT must provide to SBE the technical staff, support, and equipment necessary to stream live video of the open meetings of SBE.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$8,800 in FY 2020, and by \$6,800 annually thereafter. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	8,800	6,800	6,800	6,800	6,800
Net Effect	(\$8,800)	(\$6,800)	(\$6,800)	(\$6,800)	(\$6,800)

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

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, minutes, other materials, and audio recordings are currently posted on the board's website.

State Fiscal Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$8,800 in fiscal 2020, and by \$6,800 annually thereafter. This estimate accounts for the bill's October 1, 2019 effective date and reflects the cost of setting up a live video streaming and archiving system for SBE meetings. It includes the costs of two wide-angle cameras and microphones (and installation), live streaming, four-year storage of video recordings, closed captioning, and support.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 91 of 2017 received a hearing in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no further action was taken. Its cross file, HB 169, passed the House with amendments and was referred to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no further action was taken.

Cross File: HB 71 (Delegate Korman, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 5, 2019
mm/hlb Third Reader - March 13, 2019
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