

Department of Planning and Budget

2007 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number SB1001

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron Houck

3. Committee General Laws and Technology

4. Title Freedom of Information Act; electronic communication meetings.

5. Summary/Purpose: The bill reduces the notice requirement for electronic communication meetings from seven to three working days and clarifies that political subdivisions, other than units of local government, may conduct electronic communication meetings. The bill also allows an individual member of a public body to participate in a meeting through electronic communication means from a remote location that is not open to the public in the event of an emergency, temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition, or when a member of a regional public body's principal residence is more than 60 miles from the primary meeting location. For a member to participate in the above described manner, the bill requires that a quorum of the public body be physically assembled at the primary or central meeting location and that the public body make arrangements for the voice of the remote participant to be heard by all persons at the primary or central meeting location. The bill requires that public bodies that meet by electronic means provide a written report to the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council and the Joint Commission on Technology and Science by December 15 of each year.

6. No Fiscal Impact

7. Budget amendment necessary: No.

8. Fiscal implications: There would be some minimal impact on state agencies to report on electronic communication meetings each year and to post notice requirements sooner. Agencies should be able to absorb this cost within their budgets.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: All state agencies

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Other comments: None.

Date: 01/16/07 / acd

Document: H:\BOS-RO\Legislation\07 Session\ACD-FIS\SB1001

cc: Secretary of Administration