Department of Planning and Budget
2008 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB854

   House of Origin _ Introduced ___ Substitute ___ Engrossed

   Second House ___ In Committee ___ Substitute __X__ Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Ebbin

3. **Committee:** Passed both houses

4. **Title:** **Freedom of Information Act; electronic meetings; authority of local public bodies.**

5. **Summary:** Allows any local governing body, school board, or any authority, board, bureau, commission, district, or agency of local government to meet by electronic communication means without a quorum of the public body physically assembled at one location when the Governor has declared a state of emergency in accordance with § 44-146.17, provided (i) the catastrophic nature of the declared emergency makes it impracticable or unsafe to assemble a quorum in a single location and (ii) the purpose of the meeting is to address the emergency. The local public body convening the meeting shall (a) give public notice using the best available method given the nature of the emergency, which notice shall be given contemporaneously with the notice provided members of the local public body conducting the meeting; (b) make arrangements for public access to such meeting; and (c) otherwise comply with the provisions for electronic communication meetings. The nature of the emergency and the fact that the meeting was held by electronic communication means shall be stated in the minutes. The bill contains a technical amendment. The bill is a recommendation of the Freedom of Information Advisory Council.

6. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** No

7. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

8. **Fiscal Implications:** No

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** No

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

11. **Other Comments:** Identical to SB 131

Date: 3/6/2008 CLK
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