

Department of Planning and Budget 2008 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB131

House of Origin X Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron: Houck

3. Committee: General Laws and Technology

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: local public bodies

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: No

Date: 1/11/2008 CLK

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