

## Department of Planning and Budget 2013 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB1263

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:** Stuart, R

**3. Committee:** General Laws and Technology

**4. Title:** Virginia Freedom of Information Act; meeting by electronic communication.

**5. Summary:** Authorizes an advisory public body to meet by electronic communication means without a quorum of the advisory public body being physically assembled at one location, provided, among other requirements, the meeting is conducted utilizing a combined audio and visual communication method. The bill requires any advisory public body holding this kind of electronic communication meeting to make an audiovisual recording of the meeting, which recording shall be preserved by the advisory public body for a period of three years from the date of the meeting. The above described provisions of the bill by its terms will expire on July 1, 2014. The bill also requires the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council to develop a public comment form which public bodies are to make available to the public at meetings. Finally, the bill allows a member of any public body to participate in a meeting by electronic communication means due to personal matters under certain circumstances. Currently, such remote participation is allowed only for emergency, medical condition, or distance from the meeting location of more than 60 miles. The bill is a recommendation of the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** No fiscal impact.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** Fiscal impact is minimal and agencies can absorb it.

The new authorization for meeting by electronic communication means without a quorum of the advisory public body being physically assembled at one location, provided (among other requirements) the meeting is conducted utilizing a combined audio and visual communication method, is optional. Thus, purchasing and using such audio and visual communication is not required unless this new option under the bill is exercised.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** All state and local agencies except for the Virginia Parole Board and the Virginia State Crime Commission.

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** None.

**Date:** 1/28/13