

## **Department of Planning and Budget**

### **2018 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number:** HB908

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

**2. Patron:** Roxann L. Robinson

**3. Committee:** General Laws

**4. Title:** Virginia Freedom of Information Act; meetings held by electronic communication means.

**5. Summary:** Removes the Freedom of Information Act requirement that the remote locations from which members of a public body participate in meetings through electronic communication means be open to the public. Instead, members of the public must be provided an electronic communication means substantially equivalent to that provided to members of the public body through which the public may witness the meeting. The bill provides that public access to remote locations from which members of the public body participate through electronic communication means shall be encouraged, but not required; however, if three or more members are gathered at the same remote location, such remote location must be open to the public. The bill also amends the annual reporting requirements for public bodies that meet by electronic communication means. This bill is a recommendation of the Freedom of Information Advisory Council.

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

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** None.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** No fiscal impact to state agencies.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** All public bodies or entities with a public record.

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

**11. Other Comments:**