

## Department of Planning and Budget 2012 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB1105

**House of Origin**    ☒ Introduced    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Engrossed

**Second House**    ☐ In Committee    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Greason

**3. Committee:** General Laws

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

**5. Summary:** The bill revises the rules for which meetings of state public bodies may be conducted by audio or video means. The bill provides that (i) at least one member of the public body must be physically assembled at the principal meeting location, (ii) the quorum of the public body is determined by members participating in person or by electronic means in the meeting, (iii) a member of the public shall pay for the documented marginal cost that a public body may incur in expanding public participation to the meeting, and (iv) the number of meetings a public body may conduct through electronic communications means is limited to 50 percent of its regular meetings in any calendar year. The bill contains technical amendments.

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

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Minimal.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** While current law already allows for electronic meetings, the bill may have minimal impact to the Commonwealth, both savings and spending.

In regards to potential savings, lower costs may be experienced on travel expenses for board members as the language is clear that only one member must attend the meetings in person. The savings will be limited to some extent as the bill requires that 50 percent or fewer of the meetings be held by electronic communication means.

As for potential in increased costs, the requirement for the posting of meeting materials on the public body's Web site may cause additional administrative costs. Also, the requirement that at least one member of the public body be physically present at a primary meeting location might present administrative and travel costs above what would be experienced with a completely electronic meeting as allowed under the current Code.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Virginia FOIA Council; Any agency or political subdivision conducting meeting in which public business is discussed.

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

**11. Other Comments:** None

**Date:** 2/2/12 dpb

**Document:** f:\HB1105.doc