

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD

Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 87TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

March 10, 2021

TO: Honorable Chris Paddie, Chair, House Committee on State Affairs

FROM: Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB327 by Howard (Relating to the Internet broadcast or audio recording of certain open meetings.),
As Introduced

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend Chapter 551 of the Government Code to require certain agencies to broadcast open meetings live over the internet and make an archived broadcast available online for two years. These provisions of the bill would apply to agencies within the executive or legislative branch that receive an annual appropriation of \$10 million or more in General Revenue, including transfers, and have 100 or more full-time employees. The bill would require agencies within the executive or legislative branch that do not meet these criteria to make an archived audio recording of an open meeting. The bill would apply only to open meetings that take place on or after September 1, 2023.

Many large agencies currently comply with provisions of the bill that require video broadcasting and archiving of open meetings on the internet. It is assumed that most large agencies could implement requirements of the bill within existing resources. Costs associated with implementing provisions of the bill could be significant for smaller agencies. For example, the Texas Medical Board indicates significant costs associated with increasing network bandwidth and contracting with a third-party vendor to implement the provisions of the bill.

Local Government Impact

No fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 305 General Land Office, 306 Library & Archives Commission, 307 Secretary of State, 313 Department of Information Resources, 332 Dept Housing-Comm Affairs, 360 Office Adm Hearings, 401 Military Department, 452 Dept of License & Reg, 455 Railroad Commission, 479 State Office of Risk Management, 503 Texas Medical Board, 554 Animal Health Commission, 582 Commission on Environmental Quality, 608 Department of Motor Vehicles, 808 Historical Commission

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