



**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **HB 615** HLS 26RS 901
 Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 6, 2026 9:31 AM	Author: JOHNSON, MIKE
Dept./Agy.: Boards and Commissions	
Subject: Live Broadcast and Recordings of Public Meetings	Analyst: Garrett Ordner

PUBLIC MEETINGS EG INCREASE SG EX See Note Page 1 of 2
 Requires certain public meetings to be broadcast live

Present law requires nonelected boards or commissions that have the authority to levy a tax to video or audio record, film, or broadcast live all proceedings in a public meeting.

Proposed law requires such boards and commissions to video broadcast live all proceedings in a public meeting, and requires each meeting to be video recorded and made available to the public in an online archive located on the website of the board or commission for at least two years. Proposed law additionally requires each state board or commission that is authorized to promulgate rules pursuant to present law (Administrative Procedure Act) and each state board or commission that is authorized to impose a fine or fee to broadcast live all proceedings in a public meeting, and requires each meeting to be recorded and made available to the public in an online archive located on the website of the board or commission for at least two years.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Agy. Self-Gen.	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Ded./Other	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Federal Funds	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Local Funds	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Annual Total						
REVENUES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

There will be increased costs to boards and commissions to broadcast meetings and host recordings on their websites. Costs will vary according to the needs of each entity subject to proposed law and are indeterminable. The LFO assumes the primary means of finance for these expenditures will be self-generated revenues, but other means of finance may be affected to the extent that boards and commissions rely on them.

Proposed law greatly expands the number of boards and commissions required to broadcast and record meetings. For example, the set of boards and commissions who can charge fees, levy fines, or promulgate rules includes each of over 40 occupational licensing boards, as well as other regulatory boards and commissions such as the Commission of Weights and Measures, the Egg Commission, and the Boll Weevil Eradication Commission.

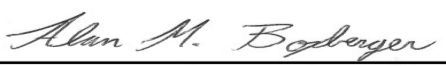
Boards and commissions meeting in Baton Rouge may potentially comply with proposed law by meeting in spaces that are currently equipped for streaming. These include several rooms in the Claiborne Conference Center with half-day rates ranging from \$100 to \$800, as well as the capitol committee rooms, which state boards and commissions may use without charge. However, given the large number of boards and commissions subject to proposed law, it is unclear that such facilities would be sufficient for all such meetings.

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

REVENUE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Senate</u> | <u>Dual Referral Rules</u> | <u>House</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H} | | <input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S} |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H} | | <input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S} |


Alan M. Boxberger
Legislative Fiscal Officer



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CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:

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EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

For boards and commissions that choose to equip their current meeting space for streaming, costs associated with broadcasting meetings will vary significantly depending on the equipment and methodology used to broadcast the meeting. The lowest-cost option may be a smartphone or inexpensive webcam broadcasting to a free streaming platform such as YouTube or Facebook Live. This may not carry any cost; however, it may result in such poor audio and video quality that viewers cannot understand what is being discussed. Additionally, as proposed law requires recordings to be hosted on the board or commission's website, the use of a free third-party broadcasting platform may not comply with proposed law.

While researching a similar bill in 2024, LFO corresponded with two school districts regarding the equipment they currently use for broadcasting school board meetings. One school district reported using a \$50,000 audiovisual configuration in its meeting room, including three cameras that cost approximately \$2,500 each. Conversely, another district reported using two Panasonic HC-V180 cameras, which retail for approximately \$250 each, in addition to equipment for video switching and audio mixing which retail for approximately \$1,000. However, sophisticated audio-visual equipment may not be needed for small meetings using a single-camera setup.

The Office of Technology Services (OTS) generally does not provide services for most boards and commissions, but did provide some cost estimates for streaming equipment. OTS estimates that one-time costs for equipment will range from \$2,000 for a single-camera setup to \$15,000 or more for a multi-camera professional streaming installation. If proposed law precludes the use of a free video streaming platform such as YouTube, a dedicated streaming platform would cost between \$600 and \$6,000 per year. Cloud storage costs for a video archive could cost between \$100 and \$500 per year. Boards and commissions would also need to ensure their meeting location's Internet connection has adequate bandwidth for streaming.

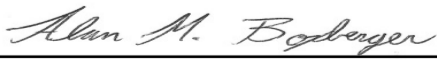
Boards and commissions subject to proposed law will need to comply with a US Department of Justice rule governing accessibility of web content provided by state and local governments. The rule will take effect in April of 2026 for state government entities and require video content to include captions. Boards and commissions will therefore need to ensure that their broadcasting medium provides for captioning. A Zoom Webinar subscription, for example, costs approximately \$800 per year for a maximum of 300 attendees and includes automatic captioning features.

Some boards and commissions subject to proposed law, such as the Board of Hearing Aid Dealers, do not currently have dedicated websites, and proposed law does not appear to allow for the hosting of videos on free platforms like YouTube. Such entities will incur additional costs to contract with web developers in order to create and maintain a website that can host videos as required by proposed law.

If any non-elected boards or commissions with the authority to levy a tax, including local boards and commissions, currently only record audio of public meetings, they will incur costs to instead record and broadcast video of the meetings. However, it is unclear that any existing boards or commissions only record meeting audio.

Senate
Dual Referral Rules
 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}
 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House
 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}
 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}


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