

State of Rhode Island
**Budget
 Office**
 Department of Administration

**State Fiscal Note for Bill
 Number: 2020-H-7692**

Date of State Budget Office Approval:

Date Requested: Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Date Due: Saturday, March 14, 2020

Impact on Expenditures

FY 2020 \$0
 FY 2021 >\$120,000
 FY 2022 >\$180,000

Impact on Revenues

FY 2020 n/a
 FY 2021 n/a
 FY 2022 n/a

**Explanation by State
 Budget Office:**

This bill would require audio and video recordings of certain open meetings of municipal government to be transmitted to the Secretary of State's Office. (the "Office") Meetings to be posted in this format would include every public-school committee meeting or any city, town, or regional school district; every meeting of city or town council; and every town or city zoning board review meeting. The Office would post recordings of all open meetings on its website to be available for public access.

**Comments on
 Sources of Funds:**

Expenditures would be recorded as general revenues.

**Summary of Facts
 and Assumptions:**

The Secretary of State currently does not accept video or audio recordings for Public/Open meetings. Therefore, there would be internal start-up or development costs to the agency to begin to accept the new format. The agency would need time to develop the capabilities and therefore costs would be assumed to begin in FY 2021.

**Summary of Fiscal
 Impact:**

The impact on municipal government to transmit in the required format would not involve a cost to the state. For purposes of this analysis, only additional costs to the Secretary of State are considered.

Development Costs: It is assumed that playback technology would be accomplished through the use of YouTube or a similar platform. Internal development would focus primarily on the Office's ability to receive the original video, store it as a "permanent record", and transmit it to YouTube. Because this is part of the permanent record, the Office would want to leave the recording unchanged in storage.

Storage: The storage capability would either have to be built in-house or by a third party contractor. The assumed solution would be to utilize cloud-based storage.

Transmittal: It is assumed that the legislation would require that both audio and video recording must be made and submitted to the Secretary of State. The technology would need to be able to extract audio from video for separate playback.

Cost of Storage and Transmission: Last year, there were over 19,000 total notices filed of local public meetings. This total would include notices from bodies that are outside the scope of the legislation. It is estimated that MP3 audio storage is 60MB/hour and 1 hour video (720p) is 900MB/hour. Meetings can last anywhere

Prepared by:

Charles Lehmuller / 4012226416 / charles.lehmuller@budget.ri.gov

Wednesday, July 15, 2020

Page 1 of 2

Charles Lehmuller

Charles Lehmuller

from 10 minutes to 6 hours and the average is unknown. If an average meeting length of 1.5 hours is assumed this would result in 24TB/year. This would grow linearly each year. The transmission rate would be an upload of 24TB of data per year and a transfer of data to Youtube at 24TB/year (so 48TB/year).

Storage costs are estimated as follows:

Year 1: \$100,000

Year 2: \$165,000

Year 3: \$240,000

Storage costs would continue to grow each year.

Cost of Application: It is unknown whether files could be stored in the current application used by the Office or if a new application would need to be built in-house. The associated cost to add this much multi-media data to the current application is unknown and it is unknown how much data could be handled and would require further research.

Cloud Storage estimated costs

Standard subscription: \$11,950/year (1 - 10 TB inclusive of first TB, then \$1,450/TB up to 10 TB)

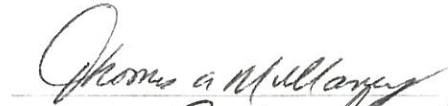
Other Personnel: Maintaining this additional audio and video material could require additional staff, but this is unknown at this time.

Minimum cost for Year 1: \$120,000

Minimum cost for Year 2: \$180,000

Minimum cost for Year 3: \$256,300

Budget Office Signature:



Fiscal Advisor Signature:

