

SOUND RECORDING OF CERTAIN PUBLIC MEETINGS

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House Bill 4705 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Luke Meerman
Committee: Oversight
Complete to 6-9-21

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4705 would add a new section to the Open Meetings Act to require that every meeting of certain public bodies be recorded in a manner that allows for the capture of sound, including in any of the following formats:

- A sound-only recording.
- A video recording with sound and picture.
- A digital or analog broadcast capable of being recorded.

The recording requirement would apply to a meeting of a state licensing board, commission panel, or rule-making board, except for a meeting or part of a meeting held in closed session. Recordings would have to be maintained for at least one year from the date of the meeting in a format that can be reproduced upon a request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Proposed MCL 15.269a

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill could result in significant total ongoing and one-time costs to the state depending on the number of publicly held meetings by applicable bodies. Costs would primarily be related to the cost of storing digital audio and video recordings for one year for all state licensing boards, commission panels, and rule-making boards. For some public bodies with higher volumes of meetings and recording needs, ongoing costs could include the equivalent costs of 0.5 FTE position, or approximately \$75,000, to manage the technology-related tasks of recording, organizing, and retaining records. Some public bodies could also incur one-time implementation costs of between \$6,000 and \$10,000 for purchasing video and audio recording equipment.

Additional costs could be incurred depending on the manner in which the public body captures or broadcasts sound and picture. The cost of a streaming media service subscription typically ranges between \$300 to \$1,000 per month, depending on picture definition and features for complying with accessibility requirements of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Failure to comply with ADA requirements could also potentially lead to punitive fines to public bodies, depending on enforcement.

According to the Department of Technology, Management, and Budget, storage costs range from \$0.08 per gigabyte per month to about \$0.30 per gigabyte per month. A total cost estimate is not available at this time.

The bill would have no fiscal impact on local units of government.

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