



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

HB16-1139

**FINAL
FISCAL NOTE**

FISCAL IMPACT: State Local Statutory Public Entity Conditional No Fiscal Impact

Drafting Number: LLS 16-0245
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Willett; Arndt
Sen. Scott

Date: June 23, 2016
Bill Status: Lost in Senate
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BILL TOPIC: ALLOW ELECTRONIC COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION DURING INTERIM

| Fiscal Impact Summary | FY 2016-2017 | FY 2017-2018 |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------|
| State Revenue | | |
| State Expenditures | Potential expenditure decrease. | |
| Appropriation Required: None. | | |
| Future Year Impacts: Potential expenditure decrease. | | |

NOTE: This bill was not enacted into law; therefore, the impacts identified in this analysis do not take effect.

Summary of Legislation

The bill permits the executive committee of the Legislative Council to establish policies allowing members of the General Assembly to participate electronically in committee meetings occurring during the legislative interim. A majority of committee members must attend a meeting in person for the committee to hold a vote, and only members attending meetings in person are permitted to vote. Members who participate electronically may receive per diem or other compensation they are otherwise entitled to claim for attendance at the meeting, but may not be reimbursed for any expenses incurred to participate electronically.

Background

House Bill 14-1303 authorized the executive committee of the Legislative Council to establish policies allowing legislative committees to take remote testimony from one or more centralized sites around the state. In 2016, remote testimony is available at five locations in the state: Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction, Otero Junior College in La Junta, Fort Lewis College in Durango, and Trinidad Junior College in Trinidad and Alamosa. Five committee rooms in the Capitol and Legislative Services Building have been outfitted with the necessary equipment to facilitate remote testimony.

State Expenditures

Conditional upon the executive committee of the Legislative Council making rules permitting electronic participation in committee meetings during the interim, the bill may reduce expenditures for the Legislative Department beginning in FY 2016-17. Allowing committee members to participate remotely decreases the amount reimbursed to those members in travel costs to attend interim committee meetings in Denver. For example, if a legislator from the Western Slope attended a meeting electronically, the cost savings would be approximately \$395 (\$245 for mileage and \$150 for hotel) per meeting; a legislator from southern Colorado would save approximately \$250 (\$100 for mileage and \$150 for hotel) per meeting.

Some of these costs may be offset by increased per diem expenditures if members attend a meeting remotely that they otherwise would not have attended at all. Legislators receive \$119 in salary and supplemental benefits per meeting day attended. However, as it is not known how many or how often members would participate in meetings electronically, the specific fiscal impact has not been estimated.

Staffing costs. The bill also increases the workload for the Legislative Council Staff to staff the meetings in which members are attending remotely. This increase in workload does not require an additional appropriation.

Effective Date

The bill was lost on second reading in the Senate on March 9, 2016.

State and Local Government Contacts

Legislative Council Staff

Research Note Available

An LCS Research Note for HB16-1139 is available online and through the iLegislate app. Research notes provide additional policy and background information about the bill and summarize action taken by the General Assembly concerning the bill.