



**Colorado  
Legislative  
Council  
Staff**

**HB16-1139**

**REVISED  
FISCAL NOTE**

(replaces fiscal note dated February 18, 2016)

**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:** March 3, 2016  
**Bill Status:** Legislative Council  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Anna Gerstle (303-866-4375)

**BILL TOPIC:** ALLOW ELECTRONIC COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION DURING INTERIM

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2015-2016 <i>(current year)</i>	FY 2016-2017	FY 2017-2018
State Revenue			
State Expenditures	Potential expenditure decrease and workload increase.		
<b>Appropriation Required:</b> None.			
<b>Future Year Impacts:</b> Potential expenditure decrease and workload increase.			

**Summary of Legislation**

The bill, *as amended by the Senate State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee*, 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.

The bill is repealed July 1, 2018. Prior to that, Legislative Council Staff must submit a report to the General Assembly that includes:

- how many members participated electronically in interim committee meetings;
- any technological issues or other problems;
- the quality and efficiency of committee discussion;
- any costs or savings incurred; and
- any feedback from legislators or members of the public.

**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 \$410 (\$260 for mileage and \$150 for hotel) per meeting; a legislator from southern Colorado would save approximately \$255 (\$105 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 and compile the report to the General Assembly. This increase in workload does not require an additional appropriation.

### **Effective Date**

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

### **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.