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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

H.B. 55
134th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 55's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Kelly

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- During the emergency period, the House of Representatives, Legislative Information Systems, and Capital Square Review and Advisory Board may incur minimal costs for the House of Representatives to conduct committee meetings and general sessions virtually. However, the bill is permissive.
- The bill has no direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions.

Detailed Analysis

The bill permits committee meetings and general sessions of the House of Representatives to be conducted virtually. The Speaker of the House of Representatives may conduct sessions of the House by means of electronic technologies, including teleconference and video conferencing. The bill gives the same permissions to chairpersons of any standing committee, subcommittee, select committee of the House, or joint committee of the General Assembly, regarding participation in committee meetings. This option is permitted during the period of emergency declared by Executive Order 2020-01D, issued on March 9, 2020.

Currently, meetings of the General Assembly are conducted in a semi-virtual manner. The Ohio Channel televises meetings that are generally available to the public, barring any technical difficulties or unavailability of equipment at the time of the meeting. Written testimony by witnesses is also encouraged. Given that much of the technological infrastructure already exists, the House of Representatives would incur little to no cost to conduct meetings and sessions virtually. Legislative Information Systems (LIS) may incur minimal costs associated with developing additional protocols surrounding the use of virtual meetings and possibly expanding the technological infrastructure that currently exists. Costs may be shared, in part, by LIS and the

Capital Square Review and Advisory Board, however according to the fiscal officer of the House of Representatives, those decisions would be undertaken internally after the bill is enacted.¹

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¹ Legislative Information Systems is a nonpartisan agency that provides certain information technology services to the General Assembly. The Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board (CSRAB) is responsible for maintaining the Ohio Statehouse.