

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 11 - A

82nd Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2023 Regular Session

Legislative Fiscal Office

Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed Versions are Considered Official

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Measure Description:

Requires state boards or commissions that conduct public meetings through electronic means to record and promptly publish recording on website or hosting service so that public may observe or listen to meetings free of charge.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Statewide, Psychiatric Security Review Board

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure are indeterminate at this time - See explanatory analysis.

Analysis:

SB 11 - A requires that any state board or commission within the executive department and whose members are subject to Senate confirmation, and that meets via telephone or other electronic means, to record and publish the meeting on a publicly accessible website or hosting service where it may be viewed or listened to free of charge. The measure takes effect January 1, 2024.

This measure is anticipated to have no or minimal impact on most state boards and commissions. Many agencies already post meeting recordings online, though some only post the audio from meetings that were held via videoconference and would need to begin posting video under this measure. Agencies note that there could be minimal additional costs related to acquisition of videoconferencing technology; staff training and staff time to compile and post recordings; and fees for storage of files on state servers. These costs are largely anticipated to be absorbable using available agency resources.

However, some agencies note that it is not clear how long files will need to be posted, which could lead to additional costs for storage. Agencies also report there could be additional costs for transcription if this is required.

The Psychiatric Security Review Board (PSRB) reported an indeterminate impact from this measure. PSRB hosts a high volume of meetings, both hearings before the board and administrative meetings. For example, in 2022 the PSRB had 43 hearings, which last for eight hours. PSRB does not currently have the technical staffing necessary to evaluate options for posting video but anticipates a possible fiscal impact to post the large number of recordings. PSRB may need to return to the Legislative Emergency Board or a subsequent legislative session if budgeted resources prove insufficient to cover the actual costs of this measure.