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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

H.B. 257
135th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 257's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Reported by House Government Oversight

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Hoops and Claggett

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Jared Cape, Budget Analyst

The bill grants permissive authority to certain state and political subdivisions to use remote communication technology, excluding teleconferences, to conduct certain public meetings or hearings. As a result, eligible state and local public bodies (listed in the accompanying LSC bill analysis) opting to use remote communication technology to conduct public meetings or hearings could incur some procurement costs to handle remote meetings if they are not equipped to do so already. Under the bill, in order to hold such meetings, the public body must establish a policy and meet the qualifications established in the bill related to adequate public notice, public participation, distribution of information and materials, and in-person attendance. However, the bill prohibits public bodies from holding virtual meetings if the meetings deal with votes on nonroutine expenditures, significant hiring decisions, or votes on tax matters. Additionally, the bill permits county central committees to use a secret ballot process to fill certain vacant partisan elected offices. This provision has no apparent fiscal impact. Finally, the bill declares an emergency and thus goes into immediate effect.