

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: Original
POSITION: Oppose

BILL NUMBER: SB 312
AUTHOR: G. Romero

BILL SUMMARY: Public Meetings

This bill would require the State Allocation Board (SAB), and State Board of Education (SBE) to provide live audio and video transmissions for all board meetings and hearings that are open to the public. Further, the SAB and SBE would be required to consult with the Office for the Chief Information officer in determining the most effective technologies to carry out the transmissions.

FISCAL SUMMARY

Providing audio and video transmissions for all SBE open hearings and meetings would result in General Fund costs in the mid-hundreds of thousands of dollars to acquire additional broadband (internet) capacity. The SAB currently provides live audio and video transmissions within existing resources with annual costs of approximately \$6,750 (15 meetings per year at \$450 per meeting). The basis for the increased SBE costs are to acquire additional broadband capacity, and to contract with cable television providers and the K-12 High speed network for the required services. The Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) indicates minimal consulting workload that is absorbable within existing resources.

COMMENTS

While the Administration is supportive of expanded use of broadband networks and advanced communications services, Finance is opposed to this bill for the following reasons:

- The SAB already provides live audio and video transmissions of its open public hearings and meetings. Current law provides the flexibility for state boards and commissions to determine when it is optimal to provide live audio and video transmissions for open public meetings. The Office for Public School Construction estimates the cost of audio and video transmissions to be \$450 per public hearing or meeting.
The State Department of Education (SDE) has the ability to provide intradepartmental audio and video transmissions of SBE's meetings and hearings that are open to the public. Therefore, the SDE has the ability to produce live audio and video transmissions for outside use. However, the SDE does not have the current broadband (internet) or server capacity to make these SBE hearings and meetings available to the public via webcasting. The SDE anticipates one-time General Fund costs in the mid to low hundreds of thousands of dollars to acquire the needed broadband capacity and servers.
The OCIO indicates a cost of approximately \$1,200 per meeting to have the webcasted meetings be American's with Disabilities Act compliant (closed captioning). In its current form, this bill would inadvertently allow webcasts that are non-American's with Disabilities Act compliant.

Analyst/Principal (0341) T. Todd Date Program Budget Manager Jeannie Oropeza Date

Department Deputy Director Date

Governor's Office: By: Date: Position Approved Position Disapproved

BILL ANALYSIS Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)

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The Governor issued Executive Order S-23-06 to facilitate the use of broadband internet for purposes such as to facilitate the state's use of streaming video technologies to broadcast public meetings over the Internet. The Administration identified the Department of General Services (DGS) (the OPSC is a part of the DGS) and Department of Technology Services (DTS) as the lead agencies to implement webcasting within state government. Webcasting, or broadcasting over the Internet, uses streaming video technology to take a single content source and distribute it to countless remote viewers. The DGS and DTS currently encourage all state departments to use webcasting as a cost-efficient way to provide additional public access to open state meetings and hearings.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO	PROP	2008-2009		2009-2010		2010-2011		
	RV	98	FC	FC	FC	FC			
1760/Dept Gen Svc	SO	No	----- No/Minor Fiscal Impact -----					6057	
6110/Dept of Educ	SO	No	...One-Time Costs in the low hundreds if thousands...					0001	
0502/Chief Info	SO	No	----- No/Minor Fiscal Impact -----					0001	
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>								
0001	General Fund								
6057	School Facilities Fund, 2006 State								