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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/25/10

SPONSOR Steinborn LAST UPDATED 02/09/10 HJM 15/aHFI#1/aHFI#2

SHORT TITLE Webcast & Archive Interim Committee Meetings SB _____

ANALYST Haug

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY10	FY11		
	NFI	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HR 1, HR 2

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of House Floor Amendment #2

House Floor Amendment #2 removes the requirement that the Legislative Council Service archive audio and video streams of interim committee meetings.

Synopsis of House Floor Amendment #1

House Floor Amendment #1 directs rather than requests the Legislative Council Service to achieve the purpose of the memorial.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Joint Memorial 15 requests that the Legislative Council Service, within budget and technology constraints, offer live audio and video streaming and archiving of interim committee meetings beginning with the 2010 interim.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no fiscal impact provided that streaming can be provided within “budgetary and technological constraints”.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Legislative floor proceedings in forty-eight states, including New Mexico, are available to the public via internet streaming known as webcasts.

The bulk of any legislature's policymaking, but especially New Mexico's, is done in the committees that meet during and between the regular sessions.

It is difficult or impossible for most residents in a state as geographically large as New Mexico to travel the distances required and spend the time necessary to attend an interim committee meeting, whether that meeting is held in Santa Fe or in some other location.

The technology that makes internet streaming possible continues to evolve so rapidly that obstacles to streaming such as cost, access and equipment can be easily overcome, so it is only a matter of time before private entities stream interim committee meetings, either free of charge or for a fee to paying clients.

Audio streaming of interim committee meetings in the capitol can be offered at practically no cost and with minimal additional staff effort.

Live audio streaming of interim committee meetings outside the capitol could be offered by purchasing broadband access, which is currently available from cellular telephone companies, and basic audio equipment.

Live audio and video streaming of interim committee meetings both inside and outside the capitol is increasingly becoming less expensive and technologically easier to offer.

Live streaming and archiving of interim committee meetings would also benefit those members of the legislature who are unable to attend meetings, both of committees of which they are members and committees of which they are not.

It is in the legislature's interest to do everything possible to ensure that New Mexicans have free and easy access to the information presented at interim committee meetings and to the deliberations of the committee members.

RELATIONSHIP

House Joint Memorial 15 is related to House Resolution 1 which pertains to floor proceedings and to House Resolution 2 which pertains to standing committees.

GH/svb