

Department of Planning and Budget
2025 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

PUBLISHED: 2/6/2025 1:21 PM

ENGROSSED

Bill Number: HB2452E

Patron: Hodges

Bill Title: Baccalaureate public institutions of higher education; livestreaming, recording, and archiving of boards of visitors meetings; closed sessions; guidelines.

Bill Summary: Requires each baccalaureate public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth to (i) provide for the livestreaming of all meetings of its board of visitors, including full board meetings, committee meetings, and subcommittee meetings, in a manner that is accessible to the public in real time and (ii) ensure that recordings of such meetings (a) are made, archived, and made available to the public within five business days following the conclusion of the meeting, (b) remain accessible on the institution's official website for no less than five years from the date of the meeting, and (c) include closed captioning for accessibility and are presented in a format compliant with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The bill requires the board of visitors of each such institution to include a report on the institution's compliance with the foregoing requirements in its statutorily-required annual report. The bill also requires the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to develop and provide to each baccalaureate public institution of higher education guidelines to assist such institutions with complying with the foregoing requirements, including recommendations for technology standards and accessibility features. Mandates that aforementioned provisions shall not become effective unless reenacted by the 2026 General Assembly. Lastly, requires the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, in consultation with the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council, the Library of Virginia, and technology experts, to work with public institutions of higher education to develop meeting standards, for public institutions to implement such standards by July 1, 2026, and for these entities to provide any recommendations for statutory or policy changes to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education and Health no later than November 15, 2025.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No

Explanation: This bill impacts the Library of Virginia (LVA), public institutions of higher education (IHEs), the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), and the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council (VFIAC). SCHEV anticipates absorbable fiscal impact, and LVA and VFIAC anticipate no fiscal impact at this time to implement the requirements of the third enactment. The provisions of the first enactment are not effective unless reenacted by the 2026 General Assembly. If reenacted, most public IHEs anticipate additional one-time and ongoing costs to meet the requirements of the bill. The actual fiscal impact to public IHEs is indeterminate at this time.

Fiscal Summary: It is anticipated that SCHEV, LVA, VFIAC, and public institutions of higher education can implement the requirements of the third enactment with existing resources.

Department of Planning and Budget
2025 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

If the provisions of the first enactment are reenacted by the 2026 General Assembly, responding public IHEs anticipate considerable costs associated with the potential need for additional personnel or contracted services to manage equipment and streaming, internal or external services to meet the accessibility requirements, and hardware and software costs to establish and maintain streaming requirements. Cost increases are also associated with the format of meetings required to be available for streaming, such as retreat-style board meetings, which would limit access to the appropriate hardware and staffing and require additional contracted services. Multiple institutions cite a concurrent committee and subcommittee meeting structure, which would require multiple teams of production staff or altering meeting schedules, which may require board members to commit additional time to meetings and increase board expenses like lodging and meals. Estimated one-time and ongoing costs range from \$36,000 - \$345,000 per institution. The actual fiscal impact is indeterminate at this time; however, the second enactment of this bill mandates that the provisions of the first enactment shall not become effective unless reenacted by the 2026 General Assembly, so fiscal impact likely would not begin until after FY26.

Other: The fiscal impact is preliminary and based on feedback from public IHEs as of the date of publication.