
Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Requiring public records to be provided on any medium in which they can be reasonably duplicated and via U.S. mail could increase costs for state government and for political subdivisions. For example, agencies may have to fax documents when previously the requester would have to go to the agency and obtain a copy in person.

Additional costs could be minimal, as the bill only requires public officials to provide a record in a particular medium if the public office has the technology, as an integral part of its normal operations, for duplicating the public record upon that medium. This means that a public office would not have to incur costs to obtain technology in order to provide a document in a particular medium.

The bill also minimizes costs by allowing public offices to charge fees to cover the cost of mailing documents. Public offices would be allowed to require that payment be made in advance before a document is sent via U.S. mail.

In some instances, the bill could reduce the costs of providing a record by increasing the instances where a document is provided via a medium that is relatively inexpensive compared to current methods. For example, sending a document electronically via e-mail could be less expensive than making a paper copy of a document.

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