
Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill authorizes a two-year pilot program that allows specified entities to conduct meetings via teleconference or video conference. These include the:

1. Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (19 members);
2. Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council (11 members);
3. Governor's Council of People with Disabilities (19 members); and
4. the facility governing board and judicial advisory board of the STAR Community Justice Center (12 members).

In order to participate in the pilot program, however, the entity must first adopt a rule permitting its members to use teleconferencing or video conferencing as a means of attending a public meeting. Another requirement is that at least three members be present at any business meeting. The apparent effect of the pilot program would be to give these bodies more flexibility to conduct business and encourage better attendance, not necessarily to create any new costs or savings. However, using this option available under the pilot program could reduce travel reimbursement costs.

The bill requires participating entities to submit a report describing the effects of teleconferencing or video conferencing on member participation and any additional costs incurred or savings realized through teleconferencing or video conferencing to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, as well as the Minority Leaders of the House and Senate. The reports would be produced at little or no cost.

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