

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB894

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Bennett-Parker

3. **Committee:** General Laws

4. **Title:** Virginia Freedom of Information Act; electronic meetings.

5. **Summary:** Amends the number of all-virtual public meetings that public bodies, with certain exceptions, may convene in a calendar year to no more than two times per calendar year or 50 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater. Current law limits the number of all-virtual public meetings to no more than two times per calendar year or 25 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater. The bill also provides that with respect to all-virtual public meetings, when audio-visual technology is available, a member of a public body shall, for purposes of a quorum, be considered absent from any portion of the meeting during which visual communication with the member is voluntarily disconnected or otherwise fails or during which audio communication involuntarily fails.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary, see Item 8.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** This bill is not expected to create a state fiscal impact.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** All public bodies subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

11. **Other Comments:** None