

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

ELEC 6/8/2021

LRB Number	21-2562/1	Introduction Number	SB-292	Estimate Type	Original
Description broadcasting election night proceedings					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The proposed legislation requires municipalities that broadcast their canvass, including by livestream, to record the broadcast and save it for 22 months following the election for records retention purposes.

Video file size is difficult to estimate, but most modern cameras are at least 1080p, which depending on compression, bitrate, and other factors, makes it roughly 1.5GB per hour. There are many other file types that cameras or video systems use to record video and each type has different size configurations. Some file types are used for higher quality video footage that will result in larger files that need to be stored under this requirement while others will create lower quality video files which are smaller than the 1080p file provided as an example.

The easiest way to store these files would be on a streaming service. While some platforms offer their service for free, there are issues with ads and inappropriate content links. Platforms that do not have ads, do have upload limits and charge \$7/month for hosting smaller files and \$20/month for larger ones.

If municipalities use online storage either locally or in the cloud they will pay per GB, and the total cost will be based on the 22-month retention period, the size of the file they need to retain, and the requirement for how quickly the files would need to be retrieved upon request. Local data storage means files can be retrieved and accessed nearly instantaneously and costs will depend on the available server space and file size at each municipality. The following is a list of file storage and retrieval costs from commercial vendors for archival level cloud-based storage which would allow most file retrieval within 12 hours:

- Amazon S3 Deep Glacier: Storage \$.00099/GB (min of 180 days); \$.02/GB retrieval
- Microsoft Azure Blob: Storage \$.00081/GB (3 year minimum); \$.02/GB retrieval
- Google Cloud Archive: Free storage up to 5GB, \$.0012/GB files larger than 5GB; \$.05/GB retrieval
- IBM Cloud Object Storage: Free storage up to 25GB, \$.0012/GB files larger than 25GB; \$.024/GB retrieval
- Oracle Cloud Object Storage: Storage \$.01; retrieval fee included

The files containing the recording could also be transferred to a removable media device for retention purposes and stored offline as long as the files could be produced in response to an open records request. The cost of such a device would vary depending on the size of memory storage required and the specific device that was chosen.

It is unknown how many municipalities currently broadcast or livestream their canvass process. It is also difficult to determine a cost for complying with the data storage requirements in this bill due to the differing file types municipalities can use to record their canvass proceedings and the different costs associated with each storage method.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications