



# Senate

General Assembly

February Session, 2004

**File No. 270**

Senate Bill No. 573

*Senate, March 25, 2004*

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. DEFRONZO of the 6th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING VIDEOCONFERENCING OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY PUBLIC HEARINGS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2004*) The joint standing committee of the  
2 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
3 government administration shall prepare a plan for using  
4 videoconferencing technology at public hearings conducted by  
5 committees of the General Assembly at the Legislative Office Building  
6 in Hartford. Said technology shall enable citizens at remote locations in  
7 the state to participate in said public hearings. Said joint standing  
8 committee shall (1) submit a preliminary plan to the General  
9 Assembly, not later than December 1, 2004, that designates one  
10 committee to test videoconferencing technology at its public hearings  
11 during the 2005 regular session of the General Assembly, and (2)  
12 submit a final plan to the General Assembly, not later than December  
13 1, 2005, that, based on the test committee's experience, provides for the

14 use of videoconferencing technology for all General Assembly  
15 committees at their public hearings during the 2006 regular session of  
16 the General Assembly.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2004</i>

**GAE**      *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 05 \$	FY 06 \$
Legislative Mgmt.	GF - Cost	\$15,000 - \$37,500	None

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill requires the Government Administration and Election Committee to prepare a plan by December 1, 2004, for using videoconferencing technology at public hearings conducted by the General Assembly at the Legislative Office Building. There is no fiscal impact to Legislative Management to develop such a plan.

The bill requires a committee to test the videoconferencing technology during the 2005 regular session, which will result in a cost to Legislative Management (OLM) of \$15,000 - to \$37,500 depending upon how the remote location hearing is operated. OLM will require \$15,000 for equipment to serve as the hub for the videoconferencing, and will have a capacity to receive information from a maximum of three remote locations at a time. If additional remote locations are necessary, equipment with an expanded capacity will cost an estimated \$25,000. If the remote locations selected currently have compatible equipment that is available, no additional costs will be incurred. However, if equipment for the remote locations is necessary a cost of \$6,500 per location will be needed (\$6,500 x 3 locations = \$19,500). If the remote locations selected has an existing data line to transmit the signal to the Legislative Office Building no costs will

result to OLM<sup>1</sup>. If the signal needs to be transmitted over telephone lines an estimated cost of \$1,000 per hearing will result.

Finally, the bill requires the committee that tested the videoconferencing equipment to submit a plan to the General Assembly by December 1, 2005, which results in no fiscal impact.

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<sup>1</sup> Some state facilities and community technical college campuses may be equipped with compatible videoconferencing equipment and transmission lines.

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**OLR Bill Analysis**

SB-573

***AN ACT CONCERNING VIDEOCONFERENCING OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY PUBLIC HEARINGS.***

**SUMMARY:**

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 16    Nay 0