

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 869

PRINTER NO. 1074

AMOUNT

See Fiscal Impact

FUND

Professional Licensure Augmentation Account

DATE INTRODUCED

September 17, 2021

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Tomlinson

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 869 amends Title 63 (Professionals and Occupations (State Licensed)) to provide for virtual board and commission meetings, quorums, continuing education and supervision.

This legislation requires each licensing board and commission to use a virtual platform to conduct business when a public meeting is held. When using a virtual platform, the licensing board or commission does not need to meet any location requirements of their practice act and can use the virtual platform to establish a quorum to effectuate business if the platform allows for live participation.

Senate Bill 869 requires each licensing board and commission to establish rules and regulations on continuing education that provides for distance education when the practice act requires continuing education for a license, certificate, registration or permit. Additionally, each licensing board and commission will be required to establish rules and regulations for virtual supervision in a manner that meets the requirements for licensure, certification, registration or permit and is acceptable to the licensing board and licensing commission.

Senate Bill 869 defines “distance education,” “practice act,” “virtual platform,” and “virtual supervision.”

This act shall take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Department of State’s (department) Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs is funded solely from the fees and fines collected by the licensing boards and commissions, so no General Fund dollars will be required for the implementation of Senate Bill 869.

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The department anticipates an annual savings of \$167,000 as travel reimbursement for board members will no longer be necessary. The department has also indicated that technology upgrades are necessary to allow for virtual and hybrid (virtual and in-person) board and commission meetings. The cost associated with acquiring the technology needed to implement provisions of Senate Bill 869 is estimated at approximately \$2 million in the first year and an annual cost of \$893,350 beginning in year two.