AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 24:202(F)(1) and (G), relative to meetings of the Louisiana State Law Institute; to provide for the location of meetings; to provide for meetings via electronic means; to provide for the authority of the Louisiana State Law Institute; to provide for definitions; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 24:202(F)(1) and (G) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§202. Council; membership; terms; vacancies; meetings

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F.(1) All meetings of the Louisiana State Law Institute, including but not limited to council, committee, and subcommittee meetings, Council shall be held at a meeting space located in a public building and open to the public for the purposes of the meeting. The institute shall select meeting space that is available without charge or at a reduced cost. At least a majority half of the council Council meetings; and at least a majority of the meetings of each committee, subcommittee or other body of the institute; held each year shall be in Baton Rouge.

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G.(1) Meetings of the institute shall be subject to the Open Meetings Law and the Public Records Law.

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.
(2)(a) Notwithstanding Paragraph (1) of this Subsection or provisions of the
Open Meetings Law to the contrary, committees and subcommittees of the institute
may conduct periodic meetings via electronic means provided that all of the
following requirements are met:

(i) No later than twenty-four hours prior to the meeting, the institute shall
provide the notice and agenda for the meeting, which shall include information
regarding how members of the public may participate in the meeting and submit
comments regarding matters on the agenda. The notice and agenda shall be posted
on the website of the institute and emailed to any member of the public or the news
media who requests notice of the committee or subcommittee's meetings.

(ii) The institute shall provide a mechanism to receive public comment
electronically both prior to and during the meeting. The institute shall properly
identify and acknowledge all public comments during the meeting and shall maintain
those comments in its record of the meeting.

(iii) The institute shall ensure that each person participating in the meeting
is properly identified and that all parts of the meeting, excluding any matter
discussed in executive session, are clear and audible to all participants in the
meeting, including the public.

(iv) A committee or subcommittee shall not conduct successive meetings via
electronic means.

(b) The provisions of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph shall not limit the
conduct of meetings via electronic means during a gubernatorially proclaimed or
declared disaster or emergency in the manner provided by R.S. 42:17.1.

(c) The institute may adopt rules, regulations, and procedures to allow the
public to participate in a meeting via electronic means.

(d) For purposes of this Paragraph, the following words and phrases shall
have the following meanings:

(i) "Meeting via electronic means" shall mean a meeting occurring via
teleconference or video conference.
(ii) "Teleconference" shall mean a method of communication that enables persons in different locations to participate in a meeting and to hear and otherwise communicate with each other.

(iii) "Video conference" shall mean a method of communication that enables persons in different locations to participate in a meeting and to see, hear, and otherwise communicate with each other.

Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 224 Engrossed 2022 Regular Session Gregory Miller


Present law provides that all meetings of the La. State Law Institute (LSLI) Council, committees, and subcommittees shall be held at a meeting space located in a public building and open to the public for the purposes of the meeting.

Proposed law retains present law as it relates to LSLI Council meetings.

Present law provides that at least a majority of the LSLI Council, committee, and subcommittee meetings held each year shall be in Baton Rouge.

Proposed law instead provides that half of the Council meetings shall be in Baton Rouge and eliminates the requirement that committee and subcommittee meetings be held in Baton Rouge.

Proposed law authorizes LSLI committees and subcommittees to conduct periodic meetings via electronic means provided LSLI does the following:

(1) Provides the notice and agenda for the meeting 24 hours prior thereto on the LSLI website and by email to those requesting notice.

(2) Provides a mechanism to receive public comment electronically both prior to and during the meeting.

(3) Properly identifies and acknowledges all public comments during the meeting and maintains those comments in its record of the meeting.

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.
(4) Ensures that each person participating in the meeting is properly identified and that all parts of the meeting, excluding any matter discussed in executive session, are clear and audible to all participants in the meeting, including the public.

Proposed law further provides that a committee or subcommittee shall not conduct successive meetings via electronic means.

Proposed law does not limit the conduct of meetings via electronic means during a gubernatorially proclaimed or declared disaster or emergency.

Proposed law authorizes the LSLI to adopt rules, regulations, and procedures to allow the public to participate in a meeting via electronic means.

Proposed law defines "meeting via electronic means", "teleconference", and "video conference".

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 24:202(F)(1) and (G))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the original bill:

1. Add effective date provision.