

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 1

BY SENATOR JENKINS

PUBLIC MEETINGS. Provides for electronic voting requirements under the Open Meetings Law. (8/1/26)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 42:14(C), relative to the Open Meetings Law; to provide for viva

3 voce voting; to provide for electronic voting; and to provide for related matters.

4 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

5 Section 1. R.S.42:14(C) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

6 §14. Meetings of public bodies to be open to the public

7 * * *

8 C. All votes made by members of a public body shall be viva voce and shall

9 be recorded in the minutes, journal, or other official, written proceedings of the body,

10 which shall be a public document. **Any vote by an individual member of a**

11 **public body that is displayed and recorded using electronic machines shall**

12 **satisfy the concept of viva voce voting requirements of the Open Meetings**

13 **Law.**

14 * * *

15 Section 2. The provisions of this Act shall be applied retroactively.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

DIGEST

SB 1 Engrossed

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Jenkins

Present law relative to the Open Meetings Law, provides for the recordation of votes made by members of public body in the minutes, journal, or other official, written proceedings of the body and shall be a public document.

Proposed law provides that a vote displayed by an electronic machine shall satisfy viva voce voting and the Open Meetings Law.

Proposed law provides for the retroactive application of this Act.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 42:14(C))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to the original bill

1. Retains and clarifies intent of previous language.