

---

## 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 693 Original

2018 Regular Session

Norton

**Abstract:** Creates the La. Commission on Public Meetings of School Boards.

Proposed law establishes the La. Commission on Public Meetings of School Boards as an advisory legislative agency. Provides that the purpose of the commission is to determine the levels of civility and effectiveness in the manner in which public school board meetings are being conducted and to contribute to raising those levels through the sharing of information and advocacy.

Proposed law provides that the commission shall consist of the following members:

- (1) The speaker of the House of Representatives, or his designee.
- (2) The president of the Senate, or his designee.
- (3) The chairman of the House Committee on Education, or his designee.
- (4) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Education, or his designee.
- (5) The state superintendent of education, or his designee.
- (6) The president of the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education, or his designee.
- (7) One local school superintendent, appointed by the La. Assoc. of School Superintendents.
- (8) Three members of public school boards appointed by the La. School Boards Assoc.
- (9) One classroom teacher appointed by the La. Federation of Teachers.
- (10) One classroom teacher appointed by the La. Assoc. of Educators.
- (11) One classroom teacher appointed by the Associated Professional Educators of America.
- (12) Three parents of children in public elementary or secondary schools appointed by the La. Parent Teacher Assoc.
- (13) One member with expertise in the Open Meetings Law appointed by the attorney general.

Proposed law requires that the members of the commission elect a chairman, vice chairman, and other officers as it shall determine.

Proposed law provides that a member of the commission shall serve without compensation. Further provides that a member may receive a per diem and be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary travel and other expenses actually incurred on business of the commission provided such reimbursement is authorized and paid by the representative agency or organization.

Proposed law requires commission to hold at least two meetings each year and authorizes commission to hold other meetings upon the call of the chairman or majority of the members. Further provides that the initial meeting be called by the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives, acting jointly.

Proposed law provides that staff and facilities needed by the commission to accomplish its purposes shall be provided by the legislature from its existing resources.

Proposed law provides for the powers and functions of the commission. Provides that the commission shall do the following:

- (1) Investigate how public meetings of school boards are being conducted by attending such meetings and by receiving testimony of individuals who have participated in such meetings.
- (2) Evaluate the conduct of such meetings for compliance with present law (the Open Meetings Law) and the degree to which they exhibit high standards of public civility and decorum.
- (3) Share findings with all appropriate public entities and civic organizations.
- (4) Report to the legislature its recommendations for necessary policy changes.
- (5) Identify best practices that school boards can implement in their meetings such that such meetings can serve as examples of civil democracy for students and others to emulate.
- (6) Take any action it deems appropriate and beneficial to achieving its purpose.

(Adds R.S. 24:991-994)