

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 682

BY REPRESENTATIVES HILFERTY, FREEMAN, AND MANDIE LANDRY

LEGISLATORS: Provides relative to the authority of legislators to attend all meetings of state and local entities

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 24:8, relative to the legislature; to provide for the authority of  
3 members of the legislature to attend meetings of state and local entities; to provide  
4 for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 24:8 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §8. Authority to attend meetings of ~~state boards, commissions, agencies and~~  
8 committees state and local entities

9 A. The members of the legislature shall be eligible and are hereby authorized  
10 to attend any meeting of any ~~state board, commission, agency or committee~~ state or  
11 local entity and such attendance shall be permitted at both public meetings and those  
12 held in private or executive session.

13 B. For purposes of this Section:

14 (1) "State entity" means any board, commission, agency, committee, or like  
15 entity within state government.

16 (2) "Local entity" means any board, commission, agency, committee,  
17 governing authority, or like entity of local government that is composed of a  
18 majority of persons who are not elected to serve on the board, commission, agency,  
19 committee, governing authority, or like entity.

1           (3) "Local government" means any political subdivision, including any  
 2           parish, municipality, school board, or special district, and any other unit of local  
 3           government and any department, office, agency, board, commission, district,  
 4           governing authority, committee, subcommittee, advisory board, task force, or other  
 5           instrumentality of a political subdivision or other unit of local government.

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

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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)]

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HB 682 Engrossed

2024 Regular Session

Hilferty

**Abstract:** Authorizes legislators to attend any meeting of a local entity, including those held in private or executive session; provides that a local entity is one composed of a majority of persons who are not elected.

Present law authorizes legislators to attend any meeting of any state board, commission, agency, or committee and specifies that such attendance shall be permitted at both public meetings and those held in private or executive session.

Proposed law provides instead that legislators may attend any meeting of a state or local entity and specifies that such attendance shall be permitted at both public meetings and those held in private or executive session. Provides that a local entity is one composed of a majority of persons who are not elected.

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

(Amends R.S. 24:8)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Limit the authorization for legislators to attend meetings of state or local entities, rather than meetings of public bodies.
2. Provide definitions of "state entity," "local entity," and "local government".