

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 103

2024 Regular Session

Mike Johnson

PUBLIC MEETINGS: Requires certain public bodies to broadcast meetings live via television or the internet

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Removes requirement for municipal governing authorities in municipalities of 10,000 or more to broadcast live all of its proceedings, including committee meetings, and requires those municipalities to instead broadcast live city council meetings including city council committee meetings.
2. Specifies, relative to municipal governing authorities, that there is no requirement to broadcast a committee meeting where members are volunteers.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present law provides that all of the proceedings in a public meeting may be video or tape recorded, filmed, or broadcast live. Requires nonelected boards or commissions that have the authority to levy a tax to video or audio record, film, or broadcast live all proceedings in a public meeting. Further requires a public body to establish standards for the use of lighting, recording, or broadcasting equipment to insure proper decorum in a public meeting.

Proposed law retains present law and further requires each school board and parish governing authority in a parish with a population of 25,000 or more to broadcast live all its public proceedings in meetings, including its committee meetings. Proposed law requires each governing authority of a municipality with a population of 10,000 or more to broadcast live all its city council meetings including city council committee meetings, but specifies that there is no requirement to broadcast a committee meeting where members are volunteers.

Proposed law defines "broadcast live" as the publicly available distribution of audio and video of the meeting in real or near real time via the internet or television broadcast. Further excludes executive sessions from the requirement to broadcast live and provides that the failure of a public body subject to proposed law to broadcast live due to a technological failure beyond the control of the public body or its ability to resolve timely shall not be a violation of present and proposed law (Open Meetings Law).

Present law requires all public bodies, except the legislature and its committees and subcommittees, to give written public notice of any regular, special, or rescheduled meeting no later than 24 hours before the meeting, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. Requires the notice to include the agenda, date, time, and place of the meeting and provides that the agenda may not be changed less than 24 hours prior to the meeting, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. Provides that each item on the agenda must be listed separately and described with reasonable specificity.

Proposed law further requires public bodies subject to the requirement to broadcast live to include on its meeting notice sufficient information to enable the public to locate the broadcast for viewing.

(Amends R.S. 42:23; Adds R.S. 42:19(A)(1)(c))