
DIGEST

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Adams

HB No. 308

Abstract: Authorizes the use of consent agendas by parishes and municipalities that have more than 50 items on their agenda; provides for definitions.

Present law (R.S. 42:11 et seq.) establishes the "Open Meetings Law" governing public bodies in Louisiana.

Present law provides that all public bodies, except the legislature and its committees and subcommittees, shall give written public notice of any regular, special, or rescheduled meeting no later than 24 hours before the meeting. Such notice must include the agenda, date, time, and place of the meeting and may not be changed less than 24 hours prior to the meeting. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that each item on the agenda must be listed separately and described with reasonable specificity. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that before the public body may take action on an agenda item, the presiding officer or his designee must read aloud the description of the item. Proposed law retains present law except authorizes parish or municipal governing authorities with more than 50 items on the agenda to take action on consent agenda items without reading the description aloud. Proposed law defines "consent agenda" as a grouping of procedural or routine agenda items that can be approved with general discussion.

(Amends R.S. 42:19(A)(1)(b)(ii)(bb); Adds R.S. 42:13(A)(4))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Provides that the definition of "consent agenda" includes items that can be approved *with* general discussion, instead of *without* general discussion.