
DIGEST

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HB 984 Original

2022 Regular Session

Amedee

Abstract: Requires school boards to have a general public comment period at a meeting at least once a month and provides a mechanism for residents of a school district to get an item on the agenda of the school board.

Present law (Open Meetings Law) generally provides that all meetings of a public body shall be open to the public, except those subject to certain statutory exceptions, and otherwise provides for notice, voting, and records of meetings.

Present law (R.S. 42:15) specifically requires each school board subject to the Open Meetings Law, except the Orleans Parish School Board, to allow public comment prior to taking any vote and requires that the comment period precede each agenda item. Requires the Orleans Parish School Board to provide opportunity for public comment at any meeting, subject to reasonable rules and restrictions adopted by the school board. Present law specifies that a comment period for all comments at the beginning of the meeting is not sufficient.

Proposed law retains present law and further requires each school board to provide for a general public comment period, during at least one meeting of the school board each month, that is not limited to specific items on the agenda. Further provides that if at least 15 residents of the school system file a written request with the school board president for a specific item to be added to the agenda of a school board meeting, the president shall include the item on an agenda for a school board meeting held within 60 days of receipt of the 15th written request for the specific agenda item.

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

(Amends R.S. 42:15)