

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 95

BY REPRESENTATIVE MIKE JOHNSON

PUBLIC MEETINGS: Provides for the use of a consent agenda by certain school boards and parish governing authorities

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 42:19(A)(1)(b)(ii)(dd), relative to public meetings of certain
3 public bodies; to provide for the use of a consent agenda at meetings of certain parish
4 governing authorities and certain school boards; to provide for the population
5 parameters used to identify certain parish governing authorities and school boards;
6 and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 42:19(A)(1)(b)(ii)(dd) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as
9 follows:

10 §19. Notice of meetings

11 A.(1)

12 * * *

13 (b)

14 * * *

15 (ii)

16 * * *

17 (dd) If an agenda of a meeting of a either the parish governing authority or
18 the parish school board ~~of in~~ a parish with a population of ~~two hundred~~ one hundred
19 twenty-five thousand or more according to the latest federal decennial census or the
20 governing authority of a municipality with a population of one hundred thousand or

1 more according to the latest federal decennial census contains more than fifty items,
2 the governing authority or school board may take action on items listed on a consent
3 agenda without reading the description of each item aloud. However, before any
4 action is taken on items listed on a consent agenda, the governing authority or school
5 board shall allow a public comment period. Any item listed on a consent agenda
6 may be removed from the consent agenda by an individual member of the governing
7 authority or school board if a person objects to the presence of the item on the
8 consent agenda and provides reasons for individual discussion at the meeting. The
9 name of the person who objects to a consent agenda item and the reasons for the
10 objection shall be included in the minutes of the meeting.

11 * * *

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 95 Original

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Mike Johnson

Abstract: Authorizes school boards and governing authorities of parishes with a population of 125,000 or more to utilize a consent agenda during certain public meetings.

Present law provides that for meetings of all public bodies, except the legislature, each item on the agenda shall be listed separately and described with reasonable specificity. Before the public body may take any action on an agenda item, the presiding officer or his designee shall read aloud the description of the item. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides as an exception to present law that if an agenda of a meeting of certain governing authorities contains more than 50 items, the governing authority may take action on items listed on a consent agenda without reading the description of each item aloud. However, before any action is taken on items listed on a consent agenda, the governing authority shall allow a public comment period. Authorizes an individual member of the governing authority to remove an item from a consent agenda if he provides reasons for individual discussion at the meeting.

Present law exception applies to the following:

- (1) The governing authority of a parish with a population of 200,000 or more.
- (2) The governing authority of a municipality with a population of 100,000 or more.

Proposed law instead provides the present law exception applies to the following:

- (1) The governing authority of a parish with a population of 125,000 or more.
- (2) The parish school board in a parish with a population of 125,000 or more.

(3) The governing authority of a municipality with a population of 100,000 or more.

(Amends R.S. 42:19(A)(1)(b)(ii)(dd))