

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 103

BY REPRESENTATIVE MIKE JOHNSON

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

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 42:23 and to enact R.S. 42:19(A)(1)(c), relative to broadcasts  
3 of public meetings; to require certain public bodies to broadcast meetings live; to  
4 require certain information on the notice of the meeting; to provide definitions; and  
5 to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 42:23 is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 42:19(A)(1)(c) is  
8 hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §19. Notice of meetings

10 A.(1)

11 \* \* \*

12 (c) Each public body subject to R.S. 42:23(B)(2) shall include on its written  
13 public notice sufficient information to enable the public to locate the broadcast for  
14 viewing.

15 \* \* \*

16 §23. ~~Sonic~~ Audio and video recordings; live broadcast

17 A. All of the proceedings in a public meeting may be video or tape recorded,  
18 filmed, or broadcast live. ~~However, any~~

1           B.(1) Each nonelected board or commission that has the authority to levy a  
2 tax shall video or audio record, film, or broadcast live all proceedings in a public  
3 meeting.

4           (2)(a)(i) The parish governing authority in a parish with a population of  
5 twenty-five thousand or more shall broadcast live all of its proceedings in public  
6 meetings, including the parish governing authority's committee meetings.

7           (ii) Each school board in a parish with a population of twenty-five thousand  
8 or more shall broadcast live all of its proceedings in public meetings, including the  
9 school board's committee meetings.

10          (iii) Each governing authority of a municipality with a population of ten  
11 thousand or more shall broadcast live all its proceedings in public meetings,  
12 including the governing authority's committee meetings.

13          (b) For purposes of this Paragraph, "broadcast live" means the publicly  
14 available distribution of audio and video of a meeting in real or near real time via the  
15 internet or television broadcast.

16          (c) The failure of a public body to broadcast live as required by this  
17 Paragraph due to a technological failure beyond the control of the public body or  
18 beyond its ability to resolve timely is not a violation of the provisions of this  
19 Chapter.

20          (d) The requirement in this Paragraph for a public body to broadcast its  
21 meetings does not apply to any executive session held in accordance with this  
22 Chapter.

23          B: C. A public body shall establish standards for the use of lighting,  
24 recording, or broadcasting equipment to insure proper decorum in a public meeting.

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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 103 Original

2024 Regular Session

Mike Johnson

**Abstract:** Requires each school board and parish governing authority in a parish with a population of 25,000 or more and each governing authority of a municipality with a population of 10,000 or more to broadcast live all its public meetings.

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 and each governing authority of a municipality with a population of 10,000 or more to broadcast live all its public proceedings in meetings, including its committee meetings. 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))