

## RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 617 (HB 446)

2024 Regular Session

Hilferty

Existing law (R.S. 42:19(A) – Open Meetings 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 be posted at the public body's principal office or if no such office exists, at the building in which the meeting is to be held; or by publication of the notice in an official journal of the public body. If the public body has a website, further requires giving notice via the internet on the website.

Prior law additionally required giving notice to any member of the news media who requests it and provided that such notice be given in the same manner as members of the public body.

New law provides instead that the public body shall give notice to any member of the public or the news media who requests notice of such meetings by providing the notice to the requestor at the same time and in the same manner as it is given to members of the public body and otherwise retains existing law. Further requires public bodies subject to existing law (R.S. 42:19(A)) to submit the notice to the commissioner of administration in the manner provided by existing and new law (R.S. 49:1303 and 1305.1).

Existing law (R.S. 49:1301, et seq.) requires licensing boards subject to the La. Licensing Agency Budget Act, the La. Board of Cosmetology, boards and commissions whose members are required to file personal financial statements pursuant to existing law (R.S. 42:1124.2.1 (Tier 2.1) – ethics code), and the committees, subcommittees, or panels thereof to provide to the commissioner of administration specified information regarding the board, commission, or like entity, including notice of public meetings, for inclusion on a boards and commissions website that the commissioner is required to establish and maintain pursuant to existing law.

New law (R.S. 49:1305.1) additionally requires all other public bodies that give notice of meetings pursuant to existing law (R.S. 42:19(A)) to submit notice of meetings to the commissioner of administration electronically in the manner required by the commissioner for inclusion on the website in an easily searchable format. Further requires the commissioner to provide for the capability for members of the public to request and receive electronic notifications of meetings and requires the commissioner to establish a timeline and plan for the implementation of such technological functions.

Effective August 1, 2024.

(Amends R.S. 42:19(A)(2)(b); Adds R.S. 42:19(A)(2)(c) and R.S. 49:1305.1)