

GREEN SHEET REDIGEST

HB 1049

2026 Regular Session

Owen

PUBLIC MEETINGS: Provides relative to public meetings.

DIGEST

Present law (R.S. 42:14) provides that every meeting of a public body shall be open to the public in most circumstances. Prohibits a public body from taking measures to circumvent present law. Provides for how votes by members of a public body are to be made and recorded. Provides that a public body, except a school board, that is holding a public meeting shall allow public comment at any point during the meeting prior to action on an item that is on the meeting agenda. Provides that a public body can allow a member of the public with a disability recognized by the Americans with Disabilities Act to participate in a public meeting via teleconference or video conference and the public body shall adopt rules, regulations, and procedures to facilitate such participation.

Present law (R.S. 42:19) provides that a public body, except the legislature and its committees and subcommittees, shall give written notice of their regular meetings and that the notice shall include the dates, times, and places of such meetings. Notices shall also include the agenda and each item in the agenda be listed separately and described with reasonable specificity. Provides that agendas shall not be changed less than 24 hrs., exclusive of weekends and legal holidays, prior to the scheduled time of the meeting. Provides a procedure for the public body to take up an item that is not on the agenda. Provides for agenda requirements when there are more than 50 items on the agenda. Provides for where a public notice is to be posted.

Proposed law retains present law and requires a public notice to be posted in a manner in which the notice can be read by the public.

Present law (R.S. 42:20) requires a public body to keep written minutes of all open meetings. Provides that the minutes for a public body, excluding the legislature and legislative committees and subcommittees, shall include the following:

- (1) The date time, and place of the meeting.
- (2) The members of the public body recorded as either present or absent.
- (3) The substance of all matters decided, and, at the request of any member, a record by individual member, of any votes taken.
- (4) Any other information that the public body requests be included or reflected in the minutes.

Present law provides that the minutes are a public record and requires the minutes to be made available within a reasonable time after the meeting, except under certain circumstances. Provides that if a public body has a website, the public body shall also post a copy of the minutes on its website.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that a draft of the minutes to be adopted shall be made available to members within five days before the meeting at which the minutes will be considered for approval.

(Amends R.S. 42:15(A), 42:19(A)(2)(a), and 20(B)(1)(a) and (b))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to the engrossed bill

1. Makes technical changes.

2. Adds provision that provides public comment for school board meetings subject to reasonable rules, regulations, and restrictions as adopted by the school board.
3. Removes provision that required legal counsel to be present at each meeting of the public body and that the member of the public body presiding over the meeting has a general understanding of the provisions of this Chapter.
4. Removes provision that required that the written minutes include the name of the member who made the motion and the name of the member who seconded the motion, if applicable.
5. Removed provision that provided that minutes shall be provided within a reasonable time and replaced it with a five day time period for minutes to be produced to the public body before the meeting to consider those minutes.