

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS**HB 1049****2026 Regular Session****Owen**

PUBLIC MEETINGS: Provides relative to public meetings

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Removes proposed law provision relative to a public body ensuring that legal counsel is present at each meeting of the public body or that a member presiding over the meeting has a general understanding of the provisions of the Open Meetings Law.
2. Provides that public comment at a meeting of a school board is subject to reasonable rules, regulations, and restrictions as adopted by the school board.
3. Removes proposed law provision that requires the minutes of all public bodies, excluding legislative committees and subcommittees, to include the name of the member who made a motion and the name of the member who seconded the motion.
4. Provides that a draft copy of the minutes shall be provided to the members of the public body at least five business days before the meeting at which the minutes will be considered for approval instead of no later than one month after the meeting.
5. Makes technical changes.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present law (R.S. 42:15) requires a school board to allow public comment at any meeting of the school board prior to taking any vote and provides that the comment period shall be for each agenda item and shall precede each agenda item.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that public comment is subject to reasonable rules, regulations, and restrictions as adopted by the school board.

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 must be listed separately and described with reasonable specificity. Provides that agendas shall not be changed less than 24 hours, 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 of 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.

Proposed law retains present law.

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 of the public body at least five business days before the meeting at which the minutes will be considered for approval.

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