

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE BILL NO. 308

BY REPRESENTATIVES ADAMS, BILLIOT, LEOPOLD, LORUSSO, TALBOT, AND  
WILLMOTT AND SENATORS APPEL AND MARTINY

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

PUBLIC MEETINGS: Provides relative to public meetings of parish and municipal governing authorities

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 42:19(A)(1)(b)(ii)(bb) and to enact R.S. 42:13(A)(4) and  
3 19(A)(1)(b)(ii)(dd), relative to meetings of public bodies; to provide relative to  
4 action by parish and municipal governing authorities with lengthy meeting agendas;  
5 to provide definitions; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 42:19(A)(1)(b)(ii)(bb) is hereby amended and reenacted and  
8 R.S. 42:13(A)(4) and 19(A)(1)(b)(ii)(dd) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §13. Definitions

10 A. For the purposes of this Chapter:

11 \* \* \*

12 (4) "Consent agenda" means a grouping of procedural or routine agenda  
13 items that can be approved with general discussion.

14 \* \* \*

15 §19. Notice of meetings

16 A.(1)

17 \* \* \*

18 (b)

19 \* \* \*

20 (ii)

21 \* \* \*

1 (bb) Each item on the agenda shall be listed separately and described with  
2 reasonable specificity. Before the public body may take any action on an item, the  
3 presiding officer or his designee shall read aloud the description of the item except  
4 as otherwise provided in Subitem (dd) of this Item.

5 \* \* \*

6 (dd) If an agenda of a meeting of a governing authority of a parish or  
7 municipality contains more than fifty items, the governing authority may take action  
8 on items listed on a consent agenda without reading the description of each item  
9 aloud. However, before any action is taken on items listed on a consent agenda, the  
10 governing authority shall allow a public comment period. Any item listed on a  
11 consent agenda may be removed from the consent agenda by an individual member  
12 of the governing authority if a person objects to the presence of the item on the  
13 consent agenda and provides reasons for individual discussion at the meeting. The  
14 name of the person who objects to a consent agenda item and the reasons for the  
15 objection shall be included in the minutes of the meeting.

16 \* \* \*

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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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Adams

HB No. 308

**Abstract:** Authorizes the use of consent agendas by parishes and municipalities that have more than 50 items on their agenda; provides for definitions.

Present law (R.S. 42:11 et seq.) establishes the "Open Meetings Law" governing public bodies in Louisiana.

Present law provides that all public bodies, except the legislature and its committees and subcommittees, shall give written public notice of any regular, special, or rescheduled meeting no later than 24 hours before the meeting. Such notice must include the agenda, date, time, and place of the meeting and may not be changed less than 24 hours prior to the meeting. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that each item on the agenda must be listed separately and described with reasonable specificity. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that before the public body may take action on an agenda item, the presiding officer or his designee must read aloud the description of the item. Proposed law

retains present law except authorizes parish or municipal governing authorities with more than 50 items on the agenda to take action on consent agenda items without reading the description aloud. Proposed law defines "consent agenda" as a grouping of procedural or routine agenda items that can be approved with general discussion.

(Amends R.S. 42:19(A)(1)(b)(ii)(bb); Adds R.S. 42:13(A)(4))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the original bill.

1. Provides that the definition of "consent agenda" includes items that can be approved *with* general discussion, instead of *without* general discussion.