

Existing law (R.S. 42:11 et seq.) establishes the "Open Meetings Law" to govern the performance of public business in La.

Existing 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. 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. Provides that each item on the agenda must be listed separately and described with reasonable specificity.

Existing 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.

New law provides an exception to this requirement applicable to governing authorities of parishes with populations of 200,000 or more and governing authorities of municipalities with populations of 100,000 or more. If such a governing authority has more than 50 items on the agenda, it may take action on consent agenda items without reading the description aloud. Requires the governing authority to allow a public comment period before any action is taken on items listed on a consent agenda. Provides that any item listed on a consent agenda may be removed from the consent agenda by an individual member of the governing authority if a person objects to the presence of the item on the consent agenda and provides reasons for individual discussion at the meeting. Defines "consent agenda" as a grouping of procedural or routine agenda items that can be approved with general discussion.

Effective August 1, 2013.

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