
HOUSE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

Substitute for Original House Bill No. 923 by Representative Ivey as proposed by the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs

This document reflects the content of a substitute bill but is not in a bill form; page numbers in this document DO NOT correspond to page numbers in the substitute bill itself.

To amend and reenact R.S. 42:20(B), relative to minutes of open meetings of public bodies; to require the posting of minutes on the website of a public body under specified circumstances; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 42:20(B) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§20. Written minutes

* * *

B.(1) The minutes shall be public records and shall be available within a reasonable time after the meeting, except where such disclosures would be inconsistent with R.S. 42:16, 17, and 18, or rules adopted under the provisions of R.S. 42:21.

(2) If the public body has a website, the public body shall post on its website, as soon as possible, a copy of the minutes made available pursuant to Paragraph (1) of this Subsection and shall maintain the copy of those minutes on the website for at least twelve months after the posting. The inability of the public to access the public body's website due to any type of technological failure shall not be a violation of the provisions of this Chapter.

DIGEST

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Abstract: Provides that if a public body has a website, the public body shall post on its website, as soon as possible, a copy of the minutes of its meetings and shall maintain the copy of those minutes for at least 12 months after the posting.

Present law (R.S. 42:20) requires all public bodies to keep written minutes of all of their open meetings. Provides that the minutes to be kept by the legislature and legislative committees are governed by the provisions of present law (R.S. 42:21) and legislative rules. Present law provides that the minutes of all other public bodies shall include but need not be limited to the date, time, and place of the meeting; the members of the public body recorded as either present or absent; the substance of all matters decided, and, at the request of any member, a record, by individual member, of any votes taken; and any other information that the public body requests be included or reflected in the minutes.

Present law provides that the minutes shall be public records and shall be available within a reasonable time after the meeting, except where such disclosures would be inconsistent with present law provisions providing for executive sessions, exceptions to open meetings, and legislative meetings.

Proposed law adds that if the public body has a website, the public body shall post on its website, as soon as possible, a copy of the minutes made available pursuant to present law and shall maintain the copy of those minutes for at least 12 months after the posting. Specifies that the inability of the public to access the public body's website due to any type of technological failure shall not be a violation of the provisions of present law (Open Meetings Law).

(Amends R.S. 42:20(B))