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 DIGEST

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SB 395 Engrossed

2016 Regular Session

Ward

Present law provides for the La. State Law Institute as an official advisory law revision commission, law reform agency, and legal research agency of the state of La. Provides that the governing body of the La. State Law Institute is a council composed of elected members and members who hold certain offices and who are appointed by certain persons.

Proposed law retains present law and additionally requires all meetings of the council to be held at a public building open to the public for the purposes of the meeting. Requires at least two-thirds of all council meetings conducted each year to be held in Baton Rouge. Provides that for council meetings held in Baton Rouge, preference shall be given to meeting at Louisiana State University unless, after reasonable inquiry by the institute, another meeting space at a public building elsewhere is available at a lower cost. Provides that preference shall be given to a meeting space available without charge or at a reduced cost and encourages public entities to make meeting space available to the institute without charge or at a reduced cost.

Proposed law further provides that meetings of the institute shall be subject to the Open Meetings Law and Public Records law.

Effective January 1, 2017.

(Adds R.S. 24:202(F) and (G))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Judiciary A to the original bill

1. Provides that the meetings shall be held at a public building open to the public and available without charge and that at least two-thirds, rather than all, of such meetings occur in Baton Rouge.
2. Authorizes and encourages public entities in Baton Rouge to make meeting space available to the institute without charge.
3. Clarifies that institute meetings are subject to the Open Meetings Law and Public Records Law.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the engrossed bill:

1. Specify that the public building where a council meeting is held need be open to the public only for purposes of the meeting.
2. Relative to the place where a council meeting is to be held, provide a preference for a meeting place that is available without charge or at a reduced cost.
3. Relative to meetings of the council that are held in Baton Rouge, remove the preference for holding such meetings at the state capitol and provide instead a

preference for holding such meetings at Louisiana State University unless another meeting space at a public building is available at a lower cost.

4. Encourage public entities to make meeting space available at a reduced cost in addition to making space available without charge.