

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 224

BY REPRESENTATIVE GREGORY MILLER

LEGISLATIVE AGCY/LAW INST: Provides relative to meetings of the Louisiana State Law Institute

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 24:202(F)(1) and (G), relative to meetings of the Louisiana State  
3 Law Institute; to provide for the location of meetings; to provide for meetings via  
4 electronic means; to provide for the authority of the Louisiana State Law Institute;  
5 to provide for definitions; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 24:202(F)(1) and (G) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as  
8 follows:

9 §202. Council; membership; terms; vacancies; meetings

10 \* \* \*

11 F.(1) All meetings of the ~~Louisiana State Law Institute, including but not~~  
12 ~~limited to council, committee, and subcommittee meetings;~~ Council shall be held at  
13 a meeting space located in a public building and open to the public for the purposes  
14 of the meeting. The institute shall select meeting space that is available without  
15 charge or at a reduced cost. At least a ~~majority~~ half of the ~~council~~ Council meetings;  
16 and at least a majority of the meetings of each committee, subcommittee or other  
17 ~~body of the institute,~~ held each year shall be in Baton Rouge.

18 \* \* \*

19 G.(1) Meetings of the institute shall be subject to the Open Meetings Law  
20 and the Public Records Law.

1           (2)(a) Notwithstanding Paragraph (1) of this Subsection or provisions of the  
2           Open Meetings Law to the contrary, committees and subcommittees of the institute  
3           may conduct periodic meetings via electronic means provided that all of the  
4           following requirements are met:

5           (i) No later than twenty-four hours prior to the meeting, the institute shall  
6           provide the notice and agenda for the meeting, which shall include information  
7           regarding how members of the public may participate in the meeting and submit  
8           comments regarding matters on the agenda. The notice and agenda shall be posted  
9           on the website of the institute and emailed to any member of the public or the news  
10          media who requests notice of the committee or subcommittee's meetings.

11          (ii) The institute shall provide a mechanism to receive public comment  
12          electronically both prior to and during the meeting. The institute shall properly  
13          identify and acknowledge all public comments during the meeting and shall maintain  
14          those comments in its record of the meeting.

15          (iii) The institute shall ensure that each person participating in the meeting  
16          is properly identified and that all parts of the meeting, excluding any matter  
17          discussed in executive session, are clear and audible to all participants in the  
18          meeting, including the public.

19          (iv) A committee or subcommittee shall not conduct successive meetings via  
20          electronic means.

21          (b) The provisions of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph shall not limit the  
22          conduct of meetings via electronic means during a gubernatorially proclaimed or  
23          declared disaster or emergency in the manner provided by R.S. 42:17.1.

24          (c) The institute may adopt rules, regulations, and procedures to allow the  
25          public to participate in a meeting via electronic means.

26          (d) For purposes of this Paragraph, the following words and phrases shall  
27          have the following meanings:

28          (i) "Meeting via electronic means" shall mean a meeting occurring via  
29          teleconference or video conference.

1           (ii) "Teleconference" shall mean a method of communication that enables  
2           persons in different locations to participate in a meeting and to hear and otherwise  
3           communicate with each other.

4           (iii) "Video conference" shall mean a method of communication that enables  
5           persons in different locations to participate in a meeting and to see, hear, and  
6           otherwise communicate with each other.

#### 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)]

HB 224 Original

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Gregory Miller

**Abstract:** Provides for meetings of the Louisiana State Law Institute Council, committees, and subcommittees.

Present law provides that all meetings of the Louisiana State Law Institute (LSLI) Council, committees, and subcommittees shall be held at a meeting space located in a public building and open to the public for the purposes of the meeting.

Proposed law retains present law as it relates to LSLI Council meetings.

Present law provides that at least a majority of the LSLI Council, committee, and subcommittee meetings held each year shall be in Baton Rouge.

Proposed law instead provides that half of the Council meetings shall be in Baton Rouge and eliminates the requirement that committee and subcommittee meetings be held in Baton Rouge.

Proposed law authorizes LSLI committees and subcommittees to conduct periodic meetings via electronic means provided LSLI does the following:

- (1) Provides the notice and agenda for the meeting 24 hours prior thereto on the LSLI website and by email to those requesting notice.
- (2) Provides a mechanism to receive public comment electronically both prior to and during the meeting.
- (3) Properly identify and acknowledge all public comments during the meeting and maintain those comments in its record of the meeting.
- (4) Ensure that each person participating in the meeting is properly identified and that all parts of the meeting, excluding any matter discussed in executive session, are clear and audible to all participants in the meeting, including the public.

Proposed law further provides that a committee or subcommittee shall not conduct successive meetings via electronic means.

Proposed law shall not limit the conduct of meetings via electronic means during a gubernatorially proclaimed or declared disaster or emergency.

Proposed law authorizes the LSLI to adopt rules, regulations, and procedures to allow the public to participate in a meeting via electronic means.

Proposed law defines "meeting via electronic means", "teleconference", and "video conference".

(Amends R.S. 24:202(F)(1) and (G))