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## DIGEST

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HB 615 Original

2026 Regular Session

Mike Johnson

**Abstract:** Requires certain public bodies to broadcast meetings live.

Present law provides that all of the proceedings in a public meeting may be video or tape recorded, filmed, or broadcast live. Further requires a public body to establish standards for the use of lighting, recording, or broadcasting equipment to insure proper decorum in a public meeting. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires nonelected boards or commissions that have the authority to levy a tax to video or audio record, film, or broadcast live all proceedings in a public meeting. Proposed law requires such boards and commissions to broadcast live all proceedings in a public meeting. Requires each meeting to be recorded and made available to the public in an online archive located on the website of the board or commission for at least two years.

Proposed law additionally requires each state board or commission that is authorized to promulgate rules pursuant to present law (Administrative Procedure Act) and each state board or commission that is authorized to impose a fine or fee to broadcast live all proceedings in a public meeting. Requires each meeting to be recorded and made available to the public in an online archive located on the website of the board or commission for at least two years.

Present law requires the parish governing authority and each school board in a parish with a population of 25,000 or more to broadcast live all of its proceedings in public meetings, including committee meetings. Requires each governing authority of a municipality with a population of 10,000 or more to broadcast live all city council meetings including city council committee meetings, but provides that there is no requirement to broadcast a committee meeting where members are volunteers.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law defines "broadcast live" as the publicly available distribution of audio and video of the meeting in real or near real time via the internet or television broadcast. Further excludes executive sessions from the requirement to broadcast live and provides that the failure of a public body subject to present law to broadcast live due to a technological failure beyond the control of the public body or its ability to resolve timely shall not be a violation of present law (Open Meetings Law).

Proposed law retains present law and applies present law to proposed law.

Present law requires all public bodies, except the legislature and its committees and subcommittees, to give written public notice of any regular, special, or rescheduled meeting no later than 24 hours before the meeting, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. 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, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. Provides that each item on the agenda must be listed separately and described with reasonable specificity.

Proposed law further requires each board and commission required by proposed law to broadcast live its meetings to include on its meeting notice sufficient information to enable the public to locate the broadcast for viewing.

(Amends R.S. 42:19(A)(1)(c) and 23(B))