

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 648

BY REPRESENTATIVE BRASS

PUBLIC MEETINGS: Provides relative to attendance at meetings of public bodies

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 42:14(E)(1) and (2), 17.2(F)(2), and 17.2.1(A), relative to public
3 bodies; to provide for the participation of certain people during public meetings; to
4 provide for participation by a parent or legal guardian of a child under the age of five
5 and a provider of early childhood supports or services; to provide for exceptions for
6 certain meetings of certain public bodies; to provide for the participation of certain
7 members of public bodies during public meetings; and to provide for related
8 matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 42:14(E)(1) and (2), 17.2(F)(2), and 17.2.1(A) are hereby amended
11 and reenacted to read as follows:

12 §14. Meetings of public bodies to be open to the public

13 * * *

14 E.(1) Each public body that has the capability to allow a parent or legal
15 guardian of a child under the age of five years old, a provider of early childhood
16 supports or services, or any member of the public with a disability recognized by the
17 Americans with Disabilities Act or a designated caregiver of such a person to
18 participate in its meetings via teleconference or video conference as defined in R.S.
19 42:17.2 shall adopt rules, regulations, and procedures to regulate and facilitate

1 participation via teleconference or video conference for any such person who prior
2 to the meeting requests that accommodation.

3 (2) Each public body that does not have the capability to allow a parent or
4 legal guardian of a child under the age of five years old, a provider of early
5 childhood supports or services, or any member of the public with a disability
6 recognized by the Americans with Disabilities Act or a designated caregiver of such
7 a person to participate in its meetings via teleconference or video conference as
8 defined in R.S. 42:17.2 shall adopt rules, regulations, and procedures to facilitate
9 viable alternative methods for a parent or legal guardian of a child under the age of
10 five years old, a provider of early childhood supports or services, or a member of the
11 public with a disability recognized by the Americans with Disabilities Act or a
12 designated caregiver of such a person who so requests to participate in its meetings.

13 * * *

14 §17.2. Exception for certain meetings of certain public bodies

15 * * *

16 F.

17 * * *

18 (2) Any public body that is strictly advisory or that primarily focuses on
19 issues dealing with disabilities, ~~or assisting military families,~~ or issues related to
20 families with children under the age of five years old may conduct successive
21 meetings via electronic means without limitation and shall, to the extent practicable,
22 publish a schedule of its meetings indicating which upcoming meetings will be
23 conducted via electronic means and which will be conducted only in person.

24 * * *

25 §17.2.1. Public body; member with a disability; member that is a parent or legal
26 guardian of a child under the age of five years old; member that is a provider
27 of early childhood supports or services

28 A. Notwithstanding any provision of this Chapter that requires a member of
29 a public body to be physically present in order to be counted for a quorum and to

Proposed law retains present law and provides that if a public body primarily focuses on issues dealing with families with children under the age of five years old, the public body is not restricted on the number of meetings conducted pursuant to present law.

Present law (R.S. 42:17.2.1) provides that if a public body has a member who has a disability recognized by the ADA the member shall be allowed to participate and vote in a meeting via electronic means. Requires a public body to adopt rules, regulations, and procedures to facilitate the requirements of present law. Provides that present law shall not apply to members of the legislature or any parish board of election supervisors.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that if a public body has a member who is a parent or legal guardian of a child under the age of five years old or a provider of early childhood supports or services, the member shall be allowed to participate and vote in a meeting via electronic means.

(Amends R.S. 42:14(E)(1) and (2), 17.2(F)(2), and 17.2.1(A))