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## DIGEST

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HB 648 Original

2026 Regular Session

Brass

**Abstract:** Provides for the participation of a parent or legal guardian of a child under the age of five or a provider of early childhood supports or services in a public meeting held by a public body, for public meetings held by a public body that primarily focuses on issues related to families with children under the age of five years old, and for the participation of a member of a public body who is a parent or legal guardian of a child under the age of five or a provider of early childhood supports or services.

Present law (R.S. 42:14) provides that meetings of public bodies are to be open to the public subject to certain limited exceptions. Provides for the manner in which members of public bodies are to cast their votes. Provides for the prohibition against certain types of voting. Provides for notice requirements for public meetings. Further provides for the capability of public bodies to allow any member of the public with a disability recognized by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or a designated caregiver of such a person to participate in meetings via teleconference or video conference. Requires public bodies to adopt rules, regulations, and procedures to regulate and facilitate participation via teleconference or video conference, or other viable alternative methods for such persons provided for in present law who request prior to the meeting that accommodation.

Proposed law retains present law and additionally requires each public body that has the capability to allow a parent or legal guardian with a child under the age of five or a provider of early childhood supports or services to participate in its meetings via teleconference or video conference to adopt rules, regulations, and procedures to regulate and facilitate participation via teleconference or video conference, or other viable alternative methods for such persons provided for in proposed law who request prior to the meeting that accommodation.

Present law (R.S. 42:17.2) provides for the circumstances in which a public body may conduct and its members may attend and participate in a meeting via electronic means. Provides for notice of such meetings. Provides for the requirements for each meeting conducted pursuant to present law. Provides for definitions. Provides that public bodies that conduct meetings pursuant to present law shall limit the number of such meetings unless the public body is strictly advisory or that primarily focuses on issues dealing with disabilities or assisting military families. Provides for the public bodies that present law shall not apply 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))