

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 73

BY REPRESENTATIVES BACALA AND JACKSON

PUBLIC MEETINGS: Provides for the method of voting in public meetings

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 42:14(C), relative to voting in public meetings; to provide for
3 voting by electronic voting machine; to provide for applicability; and to provide for
4 related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 42:14(C) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

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

8 * * *

9 C.(1) All votes made by members of a public body shall be viva voce and
10 shall be recorded in the minutes, journal, or other official, written proceedings of the
11 body, which shall be a public document.

12 (2) For purposes of this Subsection, members of a public body may also vote
13 by electronic voting machine that publicly displays how each member votes.

14 * * *

15 Section 2. The provisions of this Act shall be given prospective application only and
16 shall not apply to any litigation pending on the effective date of this Act.

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 73 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Bacala

Abstract: Authorizes the use of electronic voting machines for purposes of voting in public meetings.

Present law provides that every meeting of any public body shall be open to the public unless closed pursuant to a present law exception.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that all votes made by members of a public body in a public meeting shall be viva voce and shall be recorded in the minutes, journal, or other official, written proceedings of the body, which shall be a public document.

Proposed law retains present law and further provides that members of a public body may also vote by electronic voting machine that publicly displays how each member votes.

Proposed law shall be given prospective application only and shall not apply to any pending litigation.

(Amends R.S. 42:14(C))