

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 299

BY REPRESENTATIVE AMEDEE

PUBLIC MEETINGS: Provides for an exception to the Open Meetings Law

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 42:17(E), relative to meetings of public bodies; to provide for an exception to  
3 requirements regarding meetings of public bodies; to provide relative to certain  
4 meetings via telecommunications media; to provide for an effective date; and to  
5 provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 42:17(E) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §17. Exceptions to open meetings

9 \* \* \*

10 E. The provisions of this Chapter shall not apply to meetings of the public  
11 body at which a quorum is present, conference calls, or other conversations via  
12 telecommunication media any of which is relative to a declared state of emergency,  
13 disaster, or public health emergency and at which presentations that include security  
14 sensitive information related to the emergency are the only purpose of the call or  
15 meeting and no vote or other action, including formal or informal polling of  
16 members of the public body, is taken.

17 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
18 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
19 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If

- 1 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
2 effective on the day following such approval.
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## 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)]

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HB 299 Original

2022 Regular Session

Amedee

**Abstract:** Exempts certain meetings and conference calls from the requirements of the Open Meetings Law.

Present law requires that all meetings of public bodies be open to the public. Provides relative to public notice of such meeting, public comment and voting during meetings, and publication of minutes of meetings.

Present law defines meeting as a convening of a quorum of a public body to receive information, deliberate, or act on a matter over which the public body has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power.

Present law excepts certain meetings from the requirements of present law.

Proposed law provides an additional exception. Provides that present law does not apply to meetings at which a quorum is present, conference calls, or other conversations via telecommunication media relative to a declared state of emergency, disaster, or public health emergency, at which presentations related to the emergency are the only purpose of the call and no vote or other action is taken.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 42:17(E))