

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 41

BY SENATOR ALLAIN

PUBLIC MEETINGS. Expands the number of days required for public bodies to publish minutes for open meetings from twenty days to forty-five days. (8/1/26)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 43:144, relative to penalties for failure to timely publish minutes;  
3 to expand the number of days for publication of minutes; and to provide for related  
4 matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 43:144 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §144. Penalty for failure to have proceedings published

8 The official of any municipal corporation, police jury, or school board by law  
9 responsible for the preparing and recording of the official proceedings who, within  
10 ~~twenty~~ **forty-five** days from the date of any meeting at which the official  
11 proceedings were had, wilfully neglects or fails to furnish the official journal with  
12 a copy of the minutes, ordinances, resolutions, budgets, and proceedings for  
13 publication, shall be fined not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than five  
14 hundred dollars, or be imprisoned for not less than ten days nor more than six  
15 months, or both.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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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## DIGEST

SB 41 Engrossed

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Present law provides that the official of a municipal corporation, police jury, or school board has twenty days to post minutes for publication before penalties are incurred.

Proposed law changes the time period from 20 to 45 days.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 43:144)