DIGEST

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Abramson HB No. 449

Abstract: Provides that the exception from the Open Meetings Law for discussions of the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of a person does not apply to a discussion regarding the awarding of a public contract.

Present law generally requires meetings of public bodies be open to the public but also provides exceptions. One exception is a discussion of the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of a person which present law authorizes public bodies to hold in executive session provided notice is given to the person. Present law specifically indicates that a discussion of the appointment of a person to a public body is not covered by this exception.

Proposed law retains present law and further specifies that a discussion of the awarding of a public contract is also not covered by the exception; therefore proposed law requires such discussions regarding the award of a contract to be held in open meetings.

(Amends R.S. 42:17(A)(1))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the original bill.

1. Specifies that proposed law provisions relative to the award of public contracts and present law provisions relative to the appointment of a person to a public body, which prohibit discussion of these issues in executive session, are limited to the present law provision that allows discussion of the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of a person to be conducted in executive session and not to other exceptions in present law that allow for discussion of certain other matters in executive session.