
DIGEST

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Nancy Landry

HB No. 1143

Abstract: Expressly provides that a meeting agenda cannot be changed less than 24 hours prior to the meeting; requires each item on the agenda to be listed separately and described with reasonable specificity; and provides that before the public body may take any action on an item, the presiding officer shall read aloud the description of the item.

Present law (R.S. 42:19) provides relative to notice of meetings of public bodies other than legislative bodies. Provides procedures and requirements for giving such notice. Requires written public notice of a meeting no later than 24 hours before the meeting. Requires such notice to include the agenda of the meeting. Provides that upon unanimous approval of the members present at a meeting of a public body, the public body may take up a matter not on the agenda. Requires any such matter to be identified in the motion to take up the matter not on the agenda with reasonable specificity, including the purpose for the addition to the agenda, and entered into the minutes of the meeting. Provides that prior to any vote by the public body on the motion to take up a matter not on the agenda, there shall be an opportunity for public comment on any such motion. Prohibits the public body from using its authority to take up a matter not on the agenda as a subterfuge to defeat the purposes of provisions of present law relative to open meetings.

Proposed law specifies that the agenda shall not be changed less than 24 hours prior to the meeting. Requires each item on the agenda to be listed separately and described with reasonable specificity. Provides that before the public body may take any action on an item, the presiding officer shall read aloud the description of the item. Otherwise retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 42:19(A)(1)(b)(ii))