

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE BILL NO. 580

BY REPRESENTATIVE ABRAMSON

PUBLIC MEETINGS: Provides for the posting of the notice of a meeting of a public body on the official website of the public body

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 42:19(A)(2)(a), relative to notice of public meetings; to provide
3 relative to methods of providing notice for public meetings, including electronic
4 means; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 42:19(A)(2)(a) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §19. Notice of meetings

8 A.

9 * * *

10 (2) Written public notice given by all public bodies, except the legislature
11 and its committees and subcommittees, shall include, but need not be limited to:

12 (a) Posting a copy of the notice at the principal office of the public body
13 holding the meeting, or if no such office exists, at the building in which the meeting
14 is to be held; or by publication of the notice in an official journal of the public body
15 no less than twenty-four hours before the meeting. If the public body has a website,
16 additionally by providing notice via the Internet on the website of the public body
17 for no less than twenty-four hours immediately preceding the meeting.

18 * * *

19 Section 2.(A) The Legislature of Louisiana does hereby encourage each governing
20 body of a political subdivision of the state subject to the provisions of R.S. 42:19(A)(2) that

1 does not have a website to contact the parish governing authority of the parish in which the
2 public body is located about the feasibility of providing notices of its meetings on the
3 website of the parish governing authority. If the parish governing authority authorizes the
4 public body to place the notices of its meetings on the website of the parish governing
5 authority, the public body shall publish a notice in the official journal of the public body
6 about the availability of its notices on the website of the parish governing authority and shall
7 include the Internet address of the website in such notice.

8 (B) The Legislature of Louisiana does hereby encourage each public body in the
9 executive branch of state government subject to the provisions of R.S. 42:19(A)(2) that does
10 not have a website to contact the division of administration about the feasibility of providing
11 notices of its meetings on the website of the division of administration. If the division of
12 administration authorizes the public body to place notices of its meetings on the website of
13 the division, the public body shall publish a notice in the official journal of the public body
14 about the availability of its notices on the website of the division of administration and shall
15 include the Internet address of the website in such notice.

16 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
17 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
18 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
19 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
20 effective on the day following such approval.

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)]

Abramson

HB No. 580

Abstract: Requires a public body which has a website to give notice of a meeting via its website in addition to posting a notice at its principal office or where the meeting is held or publication in the official journal.

Present law requires all public bodies, except the legislature and its committees and subcommittees, to give written public notice of their regular meetings, if established by law, resolution, or ordinance, at the beginning of each calendar year and that such notice include meeting dates, times, and places. Further requires all such public bodies to give written public notice of any regular, special, or rescheduled meeting at least 24 hours prior and that

such notice include the meeting's agenda, date, time, and place. Provides that the notice include posting a copy of the notice at the public body's principal office, or if no such office exists, at the building in which the meeting is to be held, or publication in the public body's official journal no less than 24 hours before the meeting, and mailing a copy of the notice to any member of the news media who requests notice (specifies that the news media shall be given notice in the same manner as the members of the public body).

Proposed law provides that in addition to posting a copy of the notice at the principal office of the public body holding the meeting, or if no such office exists, at the building in which the meeting is to be held, or by publication of the notice in an official journal of the public body no less than 24 hours before the meeting, a public body which has a website shall provide notice of the meeting on the public body's website for no less than 24 hours immediately preceding the meeting.

Proposed law further encourages each public body subject to the provisions of present law that does not have a website to contact the parish governing authority of the parish in which the public body is located, or the division of administration if the public body is in the executive branch of state government, about the feasibility of providing notices of meetings on the parish's or division's website, as the case may be, and if so authorized, to publish a notice in the official journal of the public body about the availability of notices on that website and to include the Internet address of the website in such notice.

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

(Amends R.S. 42:19(A)(2)(a))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Clarifies that providing notices of meetings on the Internet is in addition to the methods of notice presently required and that such notice be provided for no less than the 24 hours immediately preceding the meeting.
2. Removes the term "official" in reference to the websites.