

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE BILL NO. 1143

BY REPRESENTATIVE NANCY LANDRY (BY REQUEST)

PUBLIC MEETINGS: Provides relative to meeting agendas

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 42:19(A)(1)(b)(ii), relative to meetings of public bodies; to  
3 provide relative to notice of such meetings; to provide relative to meeting agendas;  
4 to provide relative to the duties of the presiding officer of a public body relative to  
5 agenda items; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 42:19(A)(1)(b)(ii) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as  
8 follows:

9 §19. Notice of meetings

10 A.(1)

11 \* \* \*

12 (b)

13 \* \* \*

14 (ii)(~~aa~~) Such notice shall include the agenda, date, time, and place of the  
15 meeting, ~~provided that upon~~. The agenda shall not be changed less than twenty-four  
16 hours prior to the meeting.

17 (bb) Each item on the agenda shall be listed separately and described with  
18 reasonable specificity. Before the public body may take any action on an item, the  
19 presiding officer or his designee shall read aloud the description of the item.

(cc) 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. Any such matter shall 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. Prior to any vote on the motion to take up a matter not on the agenda by the public body, there shall be an opportunity for public comment on any such motion in accordance with R.S. 42:14 or 15. The public body shall not use its authority to take up a matter not on the agenda as a subterfuge to defeat the purposes of this Chapter.

\* \* \*

# 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)]

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 or his designee 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 or his designee shall read aloud the description of the item. Otherwise retains present law.

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

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

1. Adds provision to proposed law to allow a designee of the presiding officer of the public body to read aloud a description of an agenda item.