

**HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS**

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

**Synopsis of Senate Amendments**

1. Provides that the failure to timely post an agenda by electronic means or the inability of the public to access the public body's internet website caused by technological failure shall not be considered a violation of the Open Meetings Law.

**Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate**

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 provides that the failure to timely post an agenda by electronic means or the inability of the public to access the public body's internet website caused by technological failure shall not be considered a violation of present law (Open Meetings Law).

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))