

Regular Session, 2012

ACT No. 747

HOUSE BILL NO. 580

BY REPRESENTATIVE ABRAMSON

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. The failure
18 to timely post notice via the Internet pursuant to this Subparagraph or the inability
19 of the public to access the public body's website due to any type of technological
20 failure shall not be a violation of the provisions of this Chapter.

21 * * *

22 Section 2.(A) The Legislature of Louisiana does hereby encourage each governing
23 body of a political subdivision of the state subject to the provisions of R.S. 42:19(A)(2) that
24 does not have a website to contact the parish governing authority of the parish in which the

1 public body is located about the feasibility of providing notices of its meetings on the
2 website of the parish governing authority. If the parish governing authority authorizes the
3 public body to place the notices of its meetings on the website of the parish governing
4 authority, the public body shall publish a notice in the official journal of the public body
5 about the availability of its notices on the website of the parish governing authority and shall
6 include the Internet address of the website in such notice.

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

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

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____