

Existing law (Open Meetings 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).

New 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. New law provides that the failure to timely post notice via the Internet or the inability of the public to access the public body's website due to technological failure shall not be a violation of the Open Meetings Law.

New law further encourages each public body subject to the Open Meetings Law that does not have a website to contact the 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, 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 (June 12, 2012).

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