

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Version:** First engrossment  
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**Subject:** Open Meeting Law  
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### Overview

This bill makes several changes to the open meeting law to reflect case law that has been decided over the years as well as several updates to reflect current technology.

#### Section

- 1**      **Open meetings; definitions.** Defines "meeting" as a quorum of the members of a "public body" transacting public business and clarifies what "public body" means.
- 2**      **Subject of and grounds for closed meeting.** Requires the public body closing a meeting to state on the record the legal basis (not "specific grounds") for closing the meeting.
- 3**      **Votes to be kept in journal.** Technical change reflecting the new definition of "public body."
- 4**      **Public copy of members' materials.** Provides that the public must be able to view at least one paper copy of any printed or electronic materials provided to members.
- 5**      **Public recording of meetings.** Provides that open meetings may be recorded and photographed by the general public if it is done in a manner that is not disruptive or interferes with the meeting as reasonably determined by public body.
- 6**      **Conditions (meeting conducted by telephone or electronic means when emergency or health pandemic).** Technical change reflecting the new definition of "public body." Strikes reference to "regular" meeting location so that alternate locations can be used for meetings held during pandemics or other emergencies.
- 7**      **Special meetings.** Requires the public body to post the notice in an area available for public viewing if posting on the bulletin board or door of the public body's usual meeting room is not generally accessible to the public. Specifies that the three days notice requirement means calendar days.

- 8**      **State agencies.** Technical change as it relates to meetings of state agencies reflecting the definition of "public body." Requires publication on an agency's Web site in addition to in the State Register.