



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

Raised Bill No. 5362

LCO No. 2211



Referred to Committee on PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Introduced by:
(PD)

AN ACT REQUIRING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIODS AT PUBLIC AGENCY MEETINGS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 1-225 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

3 (a) The meetings of all public agencies, except executive sessions, as
4 defined in subdivision (6) of section 1-200, shall be open to the public.
5 In any such meeting that is open to the public, each public agency shall
6 provide members of the public an opportunity to present oral testimony
7 on any item appearing on the agenda of such public agency for such
8 meeting during a public comment period designated by such public
9 agency. Each public agency may adopt rules and restrictions regarding
10 such comment periods, including, but not limited to, a limit on the total
11 amount of time allocated for public comment on specific agenda items
12 and for each individual speaker. The votes of each member of any [such]
13 public agency upon any issue before such public agency shall be
14 reduced to writing and made available for public inspection within
15 forty-eight hours and shall also be recorded in the minutes of the session

16 at which taken. Not later than seven days after the date of the session to
17 which such minutes refer, such minutes shall be available for public
18 inspection and posted on such public agency's Internet web site, if
19 available, except that no public agency of a political subdivision of the
20 state shall be required to post such minutes on an Internet web site. Each
21 public agency shall make, keep and maintain a record of the
22 proceedings of its meetings.

23 (b) Each such public agency of the state shall file not later than
24 January thirty-first of each year in the office of the Secretary of the State
25 the schedule of the regular meetings of such public agency for the
26 ensuing year and shall post such schedule on such public agency's
27 Internet web site, if available, except that such requirements shall not
28 apply to the General Assembly, either house thereof or to any committee
29 thereof. Any other provision of the Freedom of Information Act
30 notwithstanding, the General Assembly at the commencement of each
31 regular session in the odd-numbered years, shall adopt, as part of its
32 joint rules, rules to provide notice to the public of its regular, special,
33 emergency or interim committee meetings. The chairperson or secretary
34 of any such public agency of any political subdivision of the state shall
35 file, not later than January thirty-first of each year, with the clerk of such
36 subdivision the schedule of regular meetings of such public agency for
37 the ensuing year, and no such meeting of any such public agency shall
38 be held sooner than thirty days after such schedule has been filed. The
39 chief executive officer of any multitown district or agency shall file, not
40 later than January thirty-first of each year, with the clerk of each
41 municipal member of such district or agency, the schedule of regular
42 meetings of such public agency for the ensuing year, and no such
43 meeting of any such public agency shall be held sooner than thirty days
44 after such schedule has been filed.

45 (c) The agenda of the regular meetings of every public agency, except
46 for the General Assembly, shall be available to the public and shall be
47 filed, not less than twenty-four hours before the meetings to which they
48 refer, (1) in such agency's regular office or place of business, and (2) in
49 the office of the Secretary of the State for any such public agency of the

50 state, in the office of the clerk of such subdivision for any public agency
51 of a political subdivision of the state or in the office of the clerk of each
52 municipal member of any multitown district or agency. For any such
53 public agency of the state, such agenda shall be posted on the public
54 agency's and the Secretary of the State's Internet web sites. Upon the
55 affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of a public agency present
56 and voting, any subsequent business not included in such filed agendas
57 may be considered and acted upon at such meetings.

58 (d) Notice of each special meeting of every public agency, except for
59 the General Assembly, either house thereof or any committee thereof,
60 shall be posted not less than twenty-four hours before the meeting to
61 which such notice refers on the public agency's Internet web site, if
62 available, and given not less than twenty-four hours prior to the time of
63 such meeting by filing a notice of the time and place thereof in the office
64 of the Secretary of the State for any such public agency of the state, in
65 the office of the clerk of such subdivision for any public agency of a
66 political subdivision of the state and in the office of the clerk of each
67 municipal member for any multitown district or agency. The secretary
68 or clerk shall cause any notice received under this section to be posted
69 in his office. Such notice shall be given not less than twenty-four hours
70 prior to the time of the special meeting; provided, in case of emergency,
71 except for the General Assembly, either house thereof or any committee
72 thereof, any such special meeting may be held without complying with
73 the foregoing requirement for the filing of notice but a copy of the
74 minutes of every such emergency special meeting adequately setting
75 forth the nature of the emergency and the proceedings occurring at such
76 meeting shall be filed with the Secretary of the State, the clerk of such
77 political subdivision, or the clerk of each municipal member of such
78 multitown district or agency, as the case may be, not later than seventy-
79 two hours following the holding of such meeting. The notice shall
80 specify the time and place of the special meeting and the business to be
81 transacted. No other business shall be considered at such meetings by
82 such public agency. In addition, such written notice shall be delivered
83 to the usual place of abode of each member of the public agency so that

84 the same is received prior to such special meeting. The requirement of
85 delivery of such written notice may be dispensed with as to any member
86 who at or prior to the time the meeting convenes files with the clerk or
87 secretary of the public agency a written waiver of delivery of such
88 notice. Such waiver may be given by telegram. The requirement of
89 delivery of such written notice may also be dispensed with as to any
90 member who is actually present at the meeting at the time it convenes.
91 Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit any agency from
92 adopting more stringent notice requirements.

93 (e) No member of the public shall be required, as a condition to
94 attendance at a meeting of any such body, to register the member's
95 name, or furnish other information, or complete a questionnaire or
96 otherwise fulfill any condition precedent to the member's attendance.

97 (f) A public agency may hold an executive session, as defined in
98 subdivision (6) of section 1-200, upon an affirmative vote of two-thirds
99 of the members of such body present and voting, taken at a public
100 meeting and stating the reasons for such executive session, as defined in
101 section 1-200.

102 (g) In determining the time within which or by when a notice, agenda,
103 record of votes or minutes of a special meeting or an emergency special
104 meeting are required to be filed under this section, Saturdays, Sundays,
105 legal holidays and any day on which the office of the agency, the
106 Secretary of the State or the clerk of the applicable political subdivision
107 or the clerk of each municipal member of any multitown district or
108 agency, as the case may be, is closed, shall be excluded.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2022	1-225

Statement of Purpose:

To require public comment periods at all public agency meetings.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]