

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION  
STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF SB 542  
AN ACT CONCERNING THE POSTING OF PUBLIC MEETING  
NOTICES ON PUBLIC AGENCY WEB SITES.**

This bill would amend the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to require state public agencies to post their agendas on their official web site and with the office of the Secretary of the State for posting on that web site as well.

The Commission believes that putting these documents on these web sites will enhance government transparency and increase citizen awareness of their government.

The Commission believes that the bill, while a step in the right direction, could be expanded to further facilitate public access to government. In keeping with the spirit and intent of this bill, the Commission asks the committee to consider language to expand its scope in two ways. The first would be to require agencies to post meeting minutes in addition to their agendas; the second would be to require that municipal agencies also comply with these provisions.

Further, the Commission is aware that not all public agencies have official web sites. In those situations, public agencies should only have to submit their agendas and minutes to the Secretary of the State for posting.

The Commission has prepared suggested language to achieve the suggested expansions. We would welcome the opportunity to work with the Committee and its staff to craft legislation that would not be overly burdensome and would provide significantly greater access to information about government meetings.

The Committee bill as currently drafted has technical language problems that should be clarified.

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