



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5616**

February Session, 2016

\* \_\_\_\_\_HB05616GAE\_\_\_\_\_032316\_\_\_\_\_\*

**AN ACT CONCERNING NOTICES AND PUBLIC INFORMATION.**

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 Section 1-225 of the general statutes is repealed and the  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 July 1, 2017*):

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 The votes of each member of any such public agency upon any issue  
6 before such public agency shall be reduced to writing and made  
7 available for public inspection within forty-eight hours and shall also  
8 be recorded in the minutes of the session at which taken. Not later than  
9 seven days after the date of the session to which such minutes refer,  
10 such minutes shall be available for public inspection and posted on  
11 such public agency's Internet web site, if available, and on an Internet  
12 web site designated by the Secretary of the State, except that no public  
13 agency of a political subdivision of the state shall be required to post  
14 such minutes on an Internet web site. Each public agency shall make,  
15 keep and maintain a record of the proceedings of its meetings.

16 (b) Each such public agency of the state shall electronically file, not  
17 later than January thirty-first of each year, [in] with the office of the  
18 Secretary of the State, in a manner prescribed by the Secretary of the  
19 State, the schedule of the regular meetings of such public agency for

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

41 (c) The agenda of the regular meetings of [every] each public  
42 agency, except for the General Assembly, shall be available to the  
43 public and shall be filed, not less than twenty-four hours before the  
44 meetings to which they refer, (1) in such agency's regular office or  
45 place of business, and (2) [in] electronically with the office of the  
46 Secretary of the State in a manner prescribed by the Secretary of the  
47 State for any such public agency of the state, [in] with the office of the  
48 clerk of such subdivision for any public agency of a political  
49 subdivision of the state or [in] with the office of the clerk of each  
50 municipal member of any multitown district or agency. For any such  
51 public agency of the state, such agenda shall be posted by the public  
52 agency on the public agency's [and the Secretary of the State's web  
53 sites] Internet web site, if available, and on an Internet web site

54 designated by the Secretary of the State. Upon the affirmative vote of  
55 two-thirds of the members of a public agency present and voting, any  
56 subsequent business not included in such filed agendas may be  
57 considered and acted upon at such meetings.

58 (d) Notice of each special meeting of [every] each public agency,  
59 except for the General Assembly, either house thereof or any  
60 committee thereof, shall be posted not less than twenty-four hours  
61 before the meeting to which such notice refers on the public agency's  
62 Internet web site, if available, and given not less than twenty-four  
63 hours prior to the time of such meeting by filing a notice of the time  
64 and place thereof [in] with the office of the Secretary of the State for  
65 any such public agency of the state, [in] with the office of the clerk of  
66 such subdivision for any public agency of a political subdivision of the  
67 state and [in] with the office of the clerk of each municipal member  
68 [for] of any multitown district or agency, except that any such notice  
69 filed with the Secretary of the State shall be filed electronically. Any  
70 notice filed by a public agency of the state under this section shall be  
71 posted by such public agency, in a manner prescribed by the Secretary  
72 of the State, on an Internet web site designated by the Secretary of the  
73 State. The [secretary or] clerk of a political subdivision of the state or  
74 the clerk of each municipal member of a multitown district or agency,  
75 as the case may be, shall cause any notice received under this section to  
76 be posted in his office. Such notice shall be given not less than twenty-  
77 four hours prior to the time of the special meeting; provided, in case of  
78 emergency, except for the General Assembly, either house thereof or  
79 any committee thereof, any such special meeting may be held without  
80 complying with the foregoing requirement for the filing of notice, but a  
81 copy of the minutes of [every] each such emergency special meeting  
82 adequately setting forth the nature of the emergency and the  
83 proceedings occurring at such meeting shall be filed with the Secretary  
84 of the State, the clerk of such political subdivision [,] or the clerk of  
85 each municipal member of such multitown district or agency, as the  
86 case may be, not later than seventy-two hours following the holding of  
87 such meeting, except that any such copy of the minutes filed with the

88 Secretary of the State shall be filed electronically. The notice shall  
89 specify the time and place of the special meeting and the business to be  
90 transacted. No other business shall be considered at such meetings by  
91 such public agency. In addition, such written notice shall be delivered  
92 to the usual place of abode of each member of the public agency so that  
93 the same is received prior to such special meeting. The requirement of  
94 delivery of such written notice may be dispensed with as to any  
95 member who at or prior to the time the meeting convenes files with the  
96 clerk or secretary of the public agency a written waiver of delivery of  
97 such notice. Such waiver may be given by [telegram] means of  
98 electronic communication. The requirement of delivery of such written  
99 notice may also be dispensed with as to any member who is actually  
100 present at the meeting at the time it convenes. Nothing in this section  
101 shall be construed to prohibit any agency from adopting more  
102 stringent notice requirements.

103 (e) No member of the public shall be required, as a condition to  
104 attendance at a meeting of any such body, to register the member's  
105 name, [or] furnish other information, [or] complete a questionnaire or  
106 otherwise fulfill any condition precedent to the member's attendance.

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

112 (g) In determining the time within which or by when a notice,  
113 agenda, record of votes or minutes of a special meeting or an  
114 emergency special meeting are required to be filed under this section,  
115 Saturdays, Sundays, legal holidays and any day on which the office of  
116 the agency, the Secretary of the State, [or] the clerk of the applicable  
117 political subdivision or the clerk of each municipal member of any  
118 multitown district or agency, as the case may be, is closed, shall be  
119 excluded.

120     (h) Any provision of this section requiring a public agency of the  
121     state to file with the Secretary of the State any meeting schedule,  
122     agenda, notice of special meeting or minutes of an emergency special  
123     meeting shall be deemed to require such public agency of the state to  
124     post, in a manner prescribed by the Secretary of the State, such  
125     meeting schedule, agenda, notice of special meeting or minutes of an  
126     emergency special meeting on an Internet web site designated by the  
127     Secretary of the State. The Secretary of the State shall designate an  
128     Internet web site for the purposes of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2017</i>	1-225

**GAE**     *Joint Favorable Subst.*