



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 461

February Session, 2022

House Bill No. 5459

House of Representatives, April 13, 2022

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through REP. FOX of the 148th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT REQUIRING THE ONLINE POSTING OF MEETING NOTICES OF STATE PUBLIC AGENCIES.

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 Section 1-225 of the general statutes is repealed and the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 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 be
8 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, such
10 minutes shall be available for public inspection and posted on such
11 public agency's Internet web site, if available, except that no public
12 agency of a political subdivision of the state shall be required to post
13 such minutes on an Internet web site. Each public agency shall make,

14 keep and maintain a record of the proceedings of its meetings.

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

38 (c) The agenda of the regular meetings of every public agency, except
39 for the General Assembly, shall be available to the public and shall be
40 filed, not less than twenty-four hours before the meetings to which they
41 refer, (1) in such agency's regular office or place of business, and (2) in
42 the office of the Secretary of the State for any such public agency of the
43 state, in the office of the clerk of such subdivision for any public agency
44 of a political subdivision of the state or in the office of the clerk of each
45 municipal member of any multitown district or agency. For any such
46 public agency of the state, such agenda shall be posted on the public
47 agency's and the Secretary of the State's Internet web sites. Upon the

48 affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of a public agency present
49 and voting, any subsequent business not included in such filed agendas
50 may be considered and acted upon at such meetings.

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

83 notice. Such waiver may be given by telegram. The requirement of
 84 delivery of such written notice may also be dispensed with as to any
 85 member who is actually present at the meeting at the time it convenes.
 86 Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit any agency from
 87 adopting more stringent notice requirements.

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

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

97 (g) In determining the time within which or by when a notice, agenda,
 98 record of votes or minutes of a special meeting or an emergency special
 99 meeting are required to be filed under this section, Saturdays, Sundays,
 100 legal holidays and any day on which the office of the agency, the
 101 Secretary of the State or the clerk of the applicable political subdivision
 102 or the clerk of each municipal member of any multitown district or
 103 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

GAE *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

This bill requires: 1) state public agencies, excluding the General Assembly, to post a schedule of their regular meetings for that year on the Secretary of the State's (SOTS) website, and 2) requires the SOTS to post notice of special meetings filed with her by these state public agencies on her website. This does not result in a fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5459

AN ACT REQUIRING THE ONLINE POSTING OF MEETING NOTICES OF STATE PUBLIC AGENCIES.

SUMMARY

This bill requires state public agencies, excluding the General Assembly, to post a schedule of their regular meetings for that year on the secretary of the state’s website. Existing law, unchanged by the bill, requires an agency to file the schedule with the secretary by January 31 and post it on the agency’s website.

The bill also requires the secretary to post notice of special meetings filed with her by these state public agencies on her website. Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, an agency must (1) post the notice on its own website and (2) file it with the secretary for posting in her office.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2022

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/28/2022)