

SENATE/HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED IOWA PUBLIC
INFORMATION BOARD BILL)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the definition of meeting and public notice
2 requirements under the open meetings law.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 21.2, subsection 2, Code 2021, is amended
2 to read as follows:

3 2. "Meeting" means a gathering in person or by electronic
4 means, formal or informal, of a majority of the members of
5 a governmental body where there is deliberation or action
6 upon any matter within the scope of the governmental body's
7 policy-making or budgetary duties. Meetings shall not include
8 a gathering of members of a governmental body for purely
9 ministerial or social purposes when there is no discussion of
10 policy or budgetary duties or no intent to avoid the purposes
11 of this chapter.

12 Sec. 2. Section 21.4, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code 2021,
13 is amended to read as follows:

14 a. Except as provided in subsection 3, a governmental body
15 shall give notice of the time, date, and place of each meeting
16 including a reconvened meeting of the governmental body, and
17 the tentative agenda of the meeting, in a manner reasonably
18 calculated to apprise the public of that information.
19 Reasonable notice shall include advising ~~the news media~~
20 any person who ~~have~~ has filed a request for notice with the
21 governmental body and posting the notice on a bulletin board or
22 other prominent place which is easily accessible to the public
23 and clearly designated for that purpose at the principal office
24 of the body holding the meeting, or if no such office exists,
25 at the building in which the meeting is to be held.

26 Sec. 3. Section 21.4, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code 2021,
27 is amended to read as follows:

28 a. Except as otherwise provided in paragraph "c", notice
29 conforming with all of the requirements of subsection 1 shall
30 be given at least twenty-four hours prior to the commencement
31 of any meeting of a governmental body, excluding weekend days
32 and paid holidays as specified in section 1C.2, unless for good
33 cause such notice is impossible or impractical, in which case
34 as much notice as is reasonably possible shall be given.

35

EXPLANATION

1 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
2 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

3 This bill relates to the definition of meeting and public
4 notice requirements under the open meetings law (Code chapter
5 21).

6 The bill amends the definition of a meeting that is subject
7 to the requirements of the open meetings law by expanding the
8 definition to include any deliberations or actions (including
9 recommendations) taken by a governmental body as defined in
10 the open meetings law, that are within a governmental body's
11 budgetary duties.

12 The bill provides that reasonable notice of a meeting shall
13 include providing notice to any person, and not just the news
14 media, if the person has filed a request for notice.

15 The bill also excludes weekend days and paid holidays as
16 specified in Code section 1C.2 when determining the 24-hour
17 time period for purposes of public notice under the open
18 meetings law.