

# House Study Bill 59

SENATE/HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED CITIZENS'  
AIDE/OMBUDSMAN BILL)

Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to meetings of governmental bodies.  
2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:  
3 TLSB 1279DP 81  
4 rh/sh/8

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1 1 Section 1. Section 21.2, subsection 2, Code 2005, is  
1 2 amended to read as follows:  
1 3 2. "Meeting" means a gathering in person or by electronic  
1 4 means, formal or informal, of a majority of the members of a  
1 5 governmental body where there is deliberation or action upon  
1 6 any matter within the scope of the governmental body's policy=  
1 7 making duties. A meeting includes a series of gatherings of  
1 8 members who constitute less than a majority of the members at  
1 9 each gathering, but who collectively constitute a majority of  
1 10 the members, where the series of gatherings includes  
1 11 deliberation or action upon any matter within the scope of the  
1 12 governmental body's policy=making duties. Meetings A meeting  
1 13 shall not include a gathering of members of a governmental  
1 14 body for purely ministerial or social purposes when there is  
1 15 no discussion of policy or no intent to avoid the purposes of  
1 16 this chapter.

### EXPLANATION

1 17  
1 18 This bill expands the definition of a meeting under the  
1 19 open meetings law to include serial gatherings of members of a  
1 20 governmental body who constitute less than a majority of the  
1 21 members at each gathering, but who collectively constitute a  
1 22 majority of the members, where the series of gatherings  
1 23 includes deliberation or action upon any matter within the  
1 24 scope of the governmental body's policy=making duties.  
1 25 Currently, a majority of the members of a governmental body  
1 26 who attend a gathering and deliberate or take action upon any  
1 27 matter within the scope of the governmental body's policy=  
1 28 making duties are subject to the requirements of Iowa's open  
1 29 meetings law, which requires advance public notice and public  
1 30 access.  
1 31 LSB 1279DP 81  
1 32 rh/sh/8