

House File 2223 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2223

BY PETTENGILL

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to public notice and the accessibility of
2 meetings of governmental bodies.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 21.4, subsections 1 and 2, Code 2016, are
2 amended to read as follows:

3 1. a. Except as provided in subsection 3, a governmental
4 body shall give notice of the time, date, and place of each
5 meeting including a reconvened meeting of the governmental
6 body, and the tentative agenda of the meeting, in a manner
7 reasonably calculated to apprise the public of that
8 information. Reasonable notice shall include advising the news
9 media who have filed a request for notice with the governmental
10 body and posting the notice on a bulletin board or other
11 prominent place which is easily accessible to the public and
12 clearly designated for that purpose at the principal office of
13 the body holding the meeting, or if no such office exists, at
14 the building in which the meeting is to be held.

15 b. Each meeting shall be held at a place reasonably
16 accessible to the public and at a time reasonably convenient
17 to the public, unless for good cause such a place or time is
18 impossible or impracticable. Special access to the meeting may
19 be granted to persons with disabilities.

20 2. a. Notice Except as otherwise provided in paragraph "c",
21 notice conforming with all of the requirements of subsection
22 1 of ~~this section~~ shall be given at least twenty-four hours
23 prior to the commencement of any meeting of a governmental body
24 unless for good cause such notice is impossible or impractical,
25 in which case as much notice as is reasonably possible shall
26 be given. ~~Each meeting shall be held at a place reasonably~~
27 ~~accessible to the public, and at a time reasonably convenient~~
28 ~~to the public, unless for good cause such a place or time is~~
29 ~~impossible or impractical. Special access to the meeting may~~
30 ~~be granted to persons with disabilities.~~

31 b. When it is necessary to hold a meeting on less than
32 twenty-four hours' notice, or at a place that is not reasonably
33 accessible to the public, or at a time that is not reasonably
34 convenient to the public, the nature of the good cause
35 justifying that departure from the normal requirements shall be

1 stated in the minutes.

2 c. If a governmental body is prevented from convening an
3 otherwise properly noticed meeting under the requirements of
4 subsection 1 for any reason, the governmental body may convene
5 the meeting if the governmental body posts an amended notice
6 of the meeting conforming with all of the requirements of
7 subsection 1.

8 EXPLANATION

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

11 This bill relates to public notice and the accessibility of
12 meetings of governmental bodies.

13 Under Code chapter 21 (Iowa's open meetings law), a
14 governmental body is required to give reasonable notice of
15 the time, date, and place of each meeting of the governmental
16 body, and the tentative agenda of the meeting at least 24 hours
17 before commencement of the meeting unless for good cause such
18 notice is impossible or impractical. Each meeting shall be
19 held at a place reasonably accessible to the public and at a
20 time reasonably convenient to the public, unless for good cause
21 such a place or time is impossible or impracticable.

22 The bill provides an exception to the 24-hour notice
23 requirement when a governmental body is prevented from
24 convening an otherwise properly noticed meeting for any
25 reason, the governmental body may convene the meeting if the
26 governmental body posts an amended notice of the meeting
27 conforming with the otherwise applicable notice requirements
28 under the open meetings law.