

House File 259 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 259
BY COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 75)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to public notice requirements for meetings of a
2 governmental body.

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

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 21.4, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code
2 2025, is amended to read as follows:

3 a. Except as provided in subsection 3, a governmental body
4 shall give notice of the time, date, and place of each meeting,
5 including a reconvened meeting of the governmental body, and
6 the tentative agenda of the meeting, in a manner reasonably
7 calculated to apprise the public of that information. Reasonable

8 (1) Giving notice under this paragraph shall include advising
9 all of the following:

10 (a) Advising the news media who have filed a request for
11 notice with the governmental body and posting.

12 (b) Posting the notice on a bulletin board or other in a
13 prominent and conspicuous place which is easily accessible to the
14 public and clearly designated for that purpose at the principal
15 office of the body holding the meeting, or if no such office
16 exists, at the building in which the meeting is to be held
17 annually designated for such purposes by the governmental body,
18 in a manner such that the notice is visible at all times.

19 (c) Posting the notice on any internet site owned or
20 maintained and regularly updated by the governmental body or
21 other internet presence moderated by the governmental body, if
22 applicable.

23 (2) If a tentative agenda has been posted and is amended
24 within the time frame established in subsection 2, paragraph
25 "a", the governmental body shall mark the agenda "AMENDED"
26 and identify the amended provisions. Upon amendment, the
27 governmental body shall give notice in accordance with
28 subparagraph (1).

29 Sec. 2. Section 21.4, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code 2025,
30 is amended to read as follows:

31 a. Except as otherwise provided in paragraph "c", notice
32 conforming with all of the requirements of subsection 1 shall
33 be given at least twenty-four hours prior to the commencement
34 or cancellation of any meeting of a governmental body unless for
35 good cause such notice is impossible or impractical, in which

1 case as much notice as is reasonably possible shall be given.

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EXPLANATION

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The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with

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the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

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This bill relates to public notice requirements for meetings
6 of a governmental body. The bill requires the act of giving
7 notice of a meeting of a governmental body to include (1)
8 advising the news media who have filed a request for notice
9 with the governmental body as provided under current law, (2)
10 posting the notice in a prominent and conspicuous place that
11 is designated annually by the governmental body, in a manner
12 such that the notice is visible at all times, and (3) posting
13 the notice on any associated internet site as specified in the
14 bill. If a tentative agenda has been posted and is amended, the
15 amended agenda shall be marked "AMENDED", the amended provisions
16 identified, and a new notice provided.

17 The bill requires a governmental body to provide notice if a
18 meeting is canceled. The notice must be given at least 24 hours
19 prior to the start of the meeting or, for good cause shown, as
20 soon as reasonably possible.

21 By operation of law, notice for electronic meetings of
22 governmental bodies as provided in Code section 21.8 (electronic
23 meetings) shall comply with the notice requirements in Code
24 section 21.4 (public notice). In addition, the bill applies
25 to notices for public appointment and employment under Code
26 section 35C.1 (veterans preference — appointments and employment
27 — applications) and notices for whole grade sharing agreements
28 under Code section 282.11 (procedure for whole grade sharing
29 agreements).