

2015 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 46

BY SENATOR LAFLEUR

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

PUBLIC MEETINGS. Permits members of the governing board of the Louisiana Citizens Property Insurance Corporation to participate in meetings by means of telephone, audio-video conference, or other communications technology. (8/1/15)

1 AN ACT
2 To enact R.S. 42:14(E), relative to the Open Meetings Law; to permit up to three members
3 of the governing board of the Louisiana Citizens Property Insurance Corporation to
4 participate in meetings by means of telephone, audio-video conference, or other
5 communications technology; to provide for definitions; and to provide for related
6 matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 42:14(E) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §14. Meetings of public bodies to be open to the public

10 * * *

11 **E.(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the**
12 **governing board of the Louisiana Citizens Property Insurance Corporation may**
13 **conduct meetings wherein a maximum of three governing board members may**
14 **participate in any one meeting, by means of telephone, audio-video conference,**
15 **or other communications technology, provided that all members participating**
16 **in the meeting can hear and communicate with each other. Participation in a**
17 **meeting pursuant to this Subsection shall constitute presence, in person, at such**

1 meeting, except where a member participates in the meeting for the express
 2 purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business on the grounds that the
 3 meeting is not lawfully called or convened.

4 (2) The governing board of the Louisiana Citizens Property Insurance
 5 Corporation shall adopt rules, in accordance with the provisions of the
 6 Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., governing the participation
 7 of governing board members by means of telephone, audio-video conference, or
 8 other communications technology, including a process for the verification of the
 9 identity of such participating members.

10 (3) For the purpose of this Subsection, "other communications
 11 technology" means a method of communication that enables members in
 12 different locations to participate in a meeting and communicate with each other.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Tim Prather.

DIGEST

SB 46 Original

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LaFleur

Present law provides that every meeting of any public body will be open to the public unless closed pursuant to present law.

Present law provides that each public body will be prohibited from utilizing any manner of proxy voting procedure, secret balloting, or any other means to circumvent present law.

Present law provides that all votes made by members of a public body will be viva voce and will be recorded in the minutes, journal, or other official, written proceedings of the body, which will be a public document.

Proposed law adds an exception to the "Open Meetings Law" relative to the governing board of the Louisiana Citizens Property Insurance Corporation.

Proposed law provides that the governing board may conduct meetings with up to three governing board members participating in any one meeting, by means of telephone, audio-video conference, or other communications technology.

Proposed law requires the governing board to promulgate rules for implementation of such procedures and verification of participants.

Effective August 1, 2015.

(Adds R.S. 42:14(E))