

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2023

As Engrossed: H4/5/23
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1823

By: Representative V. Flowers

By: Senator C. Tucker

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT OF 1967; TO AMEND THE LAWS CONCERNING OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT OF 1967; TO REQUIRE NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS TO BE PUBLISHED ONLINE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAWS CONCERNING OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT OF 1967; AND TO REQUIRE NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS TO BE PUBLISHED ONLINE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 25-19-106(b), concerning open public meetings under the Freedom of Information Act of 1967, is amended to add additional subdivisions to read as follows:

(b)(1) The time and place of each regular meeting shall be:

(A) Published online at least forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting takes place if the entity or governing body of the entity owns or maintains a website or a social media page; and

(B) ~~furnished~~ Furnished at least forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting takes place to anyone who requests the information.

(2) In the event of emergency or special meetings, the person calling the meeting shall:

(A) ~~notify~~ Notify the representatives of the newspapers,



radio stations, and television stations, if any, located in the county in which the meeting is to be held and any news media located elsewhere that cover regular meetings of the governing body and that have requested to be so notified of emergency or special meetings of the time, place, and date of the meeting; and

(B) Publish notice of the time, place, and date of the meeting online if the entity or governing body of the entity owns or maintains a website or a social media page.

(3) Notification required under subdivisions (b)(2)(A) and (B) of this section shall be made at least two (2) hours before the meeting takes place in order that the public shall have representatives at the meeting.

(4) As used in this subsection, "online" means a website or social media page that is owned or maintained by an entity or the governing body of an entity required to have public meetings under subsection (a) of this section.

/s/V. Flowers