

Amendments to the Illinois Open Meetings Act

On May 22, 2012, the Illinois General Assembly passed House Bill 4687, amending the Illinois Open Meetings Act. Once the Governor signs the bill, it will become effective January 1, 2013.

Section 2.02(a) of the Open Meetings Act currently requires that 48 hours prior to any scheduled regular meeting, an agenda for that meeting must be posted at the principal office of the public entity and at the location where the meeting is to be held. Additional notice and agenda requirements for special and rescheduled meetings are also set forth in Section 2.02(a).

Under the provisions of HB 4687, Section 2.02(c) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act will also require the following:

- Any agenda required under Section 2.02 will have to set forth the general subject matter of any resolution or ordinance that will be the subject of final action at the meeting.
- The public body conducting a public meeting will have to ensure that at least one copy of any notice and agenda for the meeting is continuously available for public review during the entire 48-hour period preceding the meeting.
- Posting of the notice and agenda on a website that is maintained by the public body will satisfy the requirement for continuous posting.
- If notice or agenda is not continuously available for the full 48-hour period due to actions outside of the control of the public body, then that lack of availability will not invalidate the meeting or action taken at the meeting.

If you would like to discuss any of the issues addressed in this Client Alert or would simply like to find out more about Chapman, please contact any attorney in Chapman's Public Finance Department or visit us online at chapman.com.

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