

House Study Bill 505 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____

BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
STATE GOVERNMENT BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON KAUFMANN)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to public notice requirements under the open
2 meetings law.

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

1 Section 1. Section 21.4, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code
2 2020, 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.
8 Reasonable notice shall include advising ~~the news media~~
9 any person who have has filed a request for notice with the
10 governmental body and posting the notice on a bulletin board or
11 other prominent place which is easily accessible to the public
12 and clearly designated for that purpose at the principal office
13 of the body holding the meeting, or if no such office exists,
14 at the building in which the meeting is to be held.

15 Sec. 2. Section 21.4, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code 2020,
16 is amended to read as follows:

17 a. Except as otherwise provided in paragraph "c", notice
18 conforming with all of the requirements of subsection 1 shall
19 be given at least twenty-four hours prior to the commencement
20 of any meeting of a governmental body, excluding weekend days
21 and paid holidays as specified in section 1C.2, unless for good
22 cause such notice is impossible or impractical, in which case
23 as much notice as is reasonably possible shall be given.

24 EXPLANATION

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

27 This bill relates to public notice requirements under the
28 open meetings law (Code chapter 21).

29 The bill provides that reasonable notice of a meeting shall
30 include providing notice to any person, and not just the news
31 media, if the person has filed a request for notice.

32 The bill also excludes weekend days and paid holidays as
33 specified in Code section 1C.2 when determining the 24-hour
34 time period for purposes of public notice under the open
35 meetings law.