

FINAL BILL REPORT

SHB 1417

C 137 L 17
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Concerning the harmonization of the open public meetings act with the public records act in relation to information technology security matters.

Sponsors: House Committee on State Govt, Elections & IT (originally sponsored by Representatives Hudgins and Smith).

House Committee on State Government, Elections & Information Technology
Senate Committee on State Government

Background:

The Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) requires public access to all meetings of the governing body of a state or local agency or subagency that involve the transaction of official business. Any law, rule, regulation, or directive must be adopted by a governing body at an open meeting.

A governing body may exclude the public to hold an executive session during a meeting for certain enumerated purposes. The presiding officer must announce the purpose of excluding the public from an executive session and the time when the executive session will conclude. One reason a governing body may convene an executive session is to consider matters of national security.

Certain related information regarding the security and vulnerability of public agency computer and telecommunication network infrastructure is exempt from public disclosure under the Public Records Act. Such information includes security passwords, service recovery plans, security tests and risk assessments, and other related information that could expose a risk to the security and technology infrastructure of an agency.

Summary:

The OPMA permits the governing body of a public agency to convene an executive session during a public meeting to discuss the same information regarding the security and vulnerability of agency computer and telecommunication network infrastructure that is exempted from public disclosure under the Public Record Act. The executive session

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remains subject to data security breach notifications and is subject to when legal counsel is available.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	98	0
Senate	47	0

Effective: July 23, 2017