

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 1000

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### As Passed Legislature

**Title:** An act relating to allowing special meetings to be called through electronic mail notice.

**Brief Description:** Allowing fax and electronic mail notice of special meetings.

**Sponsors:** By Representatives Clibborn, Pettigrew, Shabro, Nixon, B. Sullivan, Moeller, Jarrett, Hunter, Hudgins, Upthegrove, Tom, Morrell, P. Sullivan, Wallace and Kilmer.

#### **Brief History:**

##### **Committee Activity:**

State Government Operations & Accountability: 1/21/05, 1/28/05 [DPS].

##### **Floor Activity:**

Passed House: 2/25/05, 95-0.

Passed Senate: 4/11/05, 46-0.

Passed Legislature.

#### **Brief Summary of Bill**

- Permits public agencies to notify members of governing bodies and the media of a special meeting via fax and electronic mail.
- Allows a subscriber to select his or her preferred method of communication and prescribes a system for verifying that notices were received.

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#### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & ACCOUNTABILITY

**Majority Report:** The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 8 members: Representatives Haigh, Chair; Green, Vice Chair; Nixon, Ranking Minority Member; Clements, McDermott, Miloscia, Schindler and Sump.

**Staff:** James Allen (786-7114).

#### **Background:**

A public agency may notify each member of its governing body and the media of a special meeting by personal delivery of the notice or by mail.

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#### **Summary of Bill:**

Fax and electronic mail are added to the list of means available for a public agency to notify each member of its governing body and the media of a special meeting. The bill allows a subscriber to select his or her preferred method of communication and prescribes a system for verifying that notices were received.

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**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** This is a small bill, but it will bring us into the 21st century. Mail is often too slow and sometimes notices of a cancelled meeting arrive too late to be of any help; thus, by allowing fax and electronic mail to be used, there is another way for people to be notified of a special meeting. The clerks who work with these notifications feel strongly about this good bill. This bill will help people to attend meetings. It would be good to have a means to acknowledge the receipt or the confirmation of delivery of the notice, as spam filters or other factors might keep some of the notices from going through.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Persons Testifying:** (In support of original bill) Representative Clibborn, prime sponsor; Sharon Mattioli, Washington Municipal Clerks Association; Victoria Lincoln, Association of Washington Cities; and Rowland Thompson, Allied Daily Newspapers of Washington.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** None.