

## HB 1440 -- Open Meetings and Records Law

Sponsor: Roorda

This bill changes the laws regarding the Open Meetings and Records Law, commonly known as the Sunshine Law. The bill requires each elected or appointed public official who is a member of a public body to complete a one- to two-hour course covering the responsibilities of public officials and the Open Meetings Law as well as a separate one- to two-hour course regarding the responsibilities of the public governmental body to public information laws and open records. Public officials may designate a public information coordinator to satisfy the public information laws and open records course requirement. Each public official must complete the courses within 90 days of taking office. The training must include general principles, procedures, and applicability of the legal requirements for the Sunshine Law. Upon completion of the courses, the entity providing the training must issue a certificate of course completion to be maintained for public inspection by the public governmental body in which the official serves.

The Office of the Attorney General must ensure that training is made available to public officials and may provide courses or approve any acceptable course offered by a public governmental body as well as ensure that at least one course approved or provided is made available in a videotape format and at no cost. Any public official serving prior to the effective date of the bill must complete the training requirements before January 1, 2010.

The bill becomes effective January 1, 2009.