

HB 657 -- SUNSHINE LAW (Trent)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Utilities

This bill requires that when a public governmental body holds a meeting exclusively online, the nature of the cause justifying the departure from normal requirements must be stated in the meeting minutes. Also, any meeting held in-person and not closed to the public must be conducted in a manner that allows for physical in-person public attendance.

A public governmental body may also close records if the records are related to email addresses and telephone numbers submitted to a public governmental body by individuals or entities for the sole purpose of receiving electronic or other communications.

This bill allows a public governmental body to close records of utility usage and bill records for customers of public utilities unless the customer requests them or authorizes their release.

This bill allows a public governmental body to close records related to security and evacuation procedures, including software or surveillance companies that secure the building, for public governmental property.

The bill requires the custodian of records at a public governmental body to post notice 72 hours prior to a request for records that the body will be closed for an extended period beyond normal hours of operation.

This bill is similar to the perfected version of HB 362 (2021) and the same as HB 1953 (2020).