

HB 2206 -- MEETINGS OF GOVERNING BODIES OF POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

SPONSOR: West

This bill requires political subdivisions, by July 1, 2025, to adopt a meeting speaker policy to ensure that certain requirements set out in the bill are followed at each meeting of the governing body of the political subdivision.

The requirements include setting an amount of time at the beginning of every meeting for public comment; not banning or removing an individual from a meeting unless he or she is committing or has committed a crime at the place where the meeting is held; and providing a method of submitting written public comment for persons who cannot attend the meeting.

The governing body may include in its speaker policy a time limit on individual speakers of not less than three minutes per speaker, and a cumulative limit of one hour of public comment or 20 speakers, whichever is less based upon the number of minutes designated per speaker, and identifying information of each speaker.

If the governing body needs to hold a meeting on less than 24 hours' notice, or if the meeting will be conducted exclusively electronically, or at a time that is not reasonably convenient for the public, the nature of the good cause justifying departure from the normal requirements must be stated in the minutes. Meetings held in person and not subject to being closed under the Sunshine Law will be conducted so as to allow in-person public attendance.

This bill is similar to HCS HB 1295 (2023).