

CHAPTER 178

SENATE Substitute for HOUSE BILL No. 2947

AN ACT concerning open meetings; relating to serial meetings; amending K.S.A. 75-4317a and K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 75-4318 and 75-4320 and repealing the existing sections.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. K.S.A. 75-4317a is hereby amended to read as follows: 75-4317a. ~~(a)~~ As used in ~~this the open meetings act~~, “meeting” means any gathering, ~~or assembly; in person or through the use of a telephone call~~ or any other ~~means of medium for~~ interactive communication by a majority ~~of a quorum~~ of the membership of a body or agency subject to this act for the purpose of discussing the business or affairs of the body or agency.

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 75-4318 is hereby amended to read as follows: 75-4318. (a) Subject to the provisions of subsection ~~(f)~~ (g), all meetings for the conduct of the affairs of, and the transaction of business by, all legislative and administrative bodies and agencies of the state and political and taxing subdivisions thereof, including boards, commissions, authorities, councils, committees, subcommittees and other subordinate groups thereof, receiving or expending and supported in whole or in part by public funds shall be open to the public and no binding action by such bodies shall be by secret ballot. Meetings of task forces, advisory committees or subcommittees of advisory committees created pursuant to a governor’s executive order shall be open to the public in accordance with this act.

(b) Notice of the date, time and place of any regular or special meeting of a public body designated hereinabove shall be furnished to any person requesting such notice, except that:

(1) If notice is requested by petition, the petition shall designate one person to receive notice on behalf of all persons named in the petition, and notice to such person shall constitute notice to all persons named in the petition;

(2) if notice is furnished to an executive officer of an employees’ organization or trade association, such notice shall be deemed to have been furnished to the entire membership of such organization or association; and

(3) the public body may require that a request to receive notice must be submitted again to the body prior to the commencement of any subsequent fiscal year of the body during which the person wishes to continue receiving notice, but, prior to discontinuing notice to any person, the public body must notify the person that notice will be discontinued unless the person resubmits a request to receive notice.

(c) It shall be the duty of the presiding officer or other person calling the meeting, if the meeting is not called by the presiding officer, to furnish the notice required by subsection (b).

(d) Prior to any meeting hereinabove mentioned, any agenda relating to the business to be transacted at such meeting shall be made available to any person requesting ~~said~~ the agenda.

(e) The use of cameras, photographic lights and recording devices shall not be prohibited at any meeting mentioned by subsection (a), but such use shall be subject to reasonable rules designed to insure the orderly conduct of the proceedings at such meeting.

(f) *Except as provided by section 22 of article 2 of the constitution of the state of Kansas, meetings in a series shall be open if they collectively involve a majority of the membership of the body or agency, share a common topic of discussion concerning the business or affairs of the body or agency, and are intended by any or all of the participants to reach agreement on a matter that would require binding action to be taken by the body or agency.*

~~(g)~~ (g) The provisions of the open meetings law shall not apply:

(1) To any administrative body that is authorized by law to exercise quasi-judicial functions when such body is deliberating matters relating to a decision involving such quasi-judicial functions;

(2) to the parole board when conducting parole hearings or parole violation hearings held at a correctional institution;

(3) to any impeachment inquiry or other impeachment matter referred to any committee of the house of representatives prior to the report

of such committee to the full house of representatives; and

(4) if otherwise provided by state or federal law or by rules of the Kansas senate or house of representatives.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 75-4320 is hereby amended to read as follows: 75-4320. (a) Any member of a body or agency subject to this act who knowingly violates any of the provisions of this act or who intentionally fails to furnish information as required by subsection (b) of K.S.A. 75-4318, and amendments thereto, shall be liable for the payment of a civil penalty in an action brought by the attorney general or county or district attorney, in a sum set by the court of not to exceed \$500 for each violation. In addition, any binding action which is taken at a meeting not in substantial compliance with the provisions of this act shall be voidable in any action brought by the attorney general or county or district attorney in the district court of the county in which the meeting was held within 21 days of the meeting, and the court shall have jurisdiction to issue injunctions or writs of mandamus to enforce the provisions of this act.

(b) Civil penalties sued for and recovered hereunder by the attorney general shall be paid into the state general fund. Civil penalties sued for and recovered hereunder by a county or district attorney shall be paid into the general fund of the county where the proceedings were instigated.

(c) *No fine shall be imposed pursuant to subsection (a) for violations of subsection (f) of K.S.A. 75-4320, and amendments thereto, which occur prior to July 1, 2009.*

Sec. 4. K.S.A. 75-4317a and K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 75-4318 and 75-4320 are hereby repealed.

Sec. 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

Approved May 18, 2008.
