



**Hundredth Legislature - Second Session - 2008**  
**Introducer's Statement of Intent**  
**LB 962**

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**Chairperson:** Ray Aguilar  
**Committee:** Government, Military and Veterans Affairs  
**Date of Hearing:** February 13, 2008

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 962 ensures citizens' right to speak at public meetings under the Open Meetings Act. It clarifies that a public body could not require a member of the public to make a request prior to the meeting to be placed on the agenda in order to comment on an agenda item.

It does not impair a public body's existing statutory authority to adopt and enforce reasonable rules regarding the conduct of persons who wish to testify during public meetings. It merely prohibits a public body from imposing this burdensome requirement on citizens.

The basic tenet of our democracy is government by the people. If we erect barriers for citizen involvement then we frustrate rather than encourage, citizens from participating in the formation of policies which affects their lives. As a result citizens feel disenfranchised and become disillusioned and mistrustful of government.

As elected officials I believe it is our duty to invite and encourage the public to share their concerns – whether they support or oppose our actions. Without citizens' voices we lose a key component of representative government.

**Principal Introducer:**

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**Senator Don Preister**