

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 898

public. At the beginning of each meeting, the public will be informed as to the location of that posted information. And fourth, public meeting attendees who fail to object to a violation during the meeting may still challenge the violation after the meeting. Concerns were raised by citizens during the meetings in the interim about the apparent abuse of public bodies of closed sessions. Some citizens proposed a requirement to record or tape closed sessions. As a compromise, the provisions in this bill regarding closed sessions are being offered to try to curtail any abuse of closed sessions. Requiring the reason, subject, and limitation for the closed session will provide the public with sufficient information about the need for a closed session, while not requiring that the public body reveal information which would compromise the confidential nature of the issues to be discussed. Nearly all of the attendees at the working group meetings agreed that agendas need to include more detail, in order to provide sufficient information to the public for people to determine whether the public body will be discussing or taking action on any issue of concern to them. Posting a copy of the Open Meetings Act in the meeting room will be required, as I said. There was general agreement among the members of the working group that there is a need for more public education about the existence of and provisions in the Open Meetings Act. This provision will advise citizens attending a public meeting that there are statutory provisions that address public body responsibilities regarding public meetings and include citizens' rights. There are two provisions regarding this issue. There is a requirement for public bodies to post at least one current copy of the Open Meetings Act at a location accessible to members of the public in the room where the meeting is held; and, at the beginning of each meeting, the presiding officer would inform the public about the location of that posted information. There have been some questions about my intention on what posting means. It does not mean there is only one way to post that information. Some ways the act could be posted include, although not limited to, attaching it to a bulletin board, hanging it by a chain, fastening it to a wall. And I'm not intending in historic buildings that there is any damage or destruction to any of these buildings as they're posted. It could be laminated and then put it onto a board, on an easel, or