
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1651 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY KRIEGER, COHEN, SACCONI, DUNBAR, DAVIDSON, BARRAR,
TALLMAN, MURT, COX, DeLUCA, BENNINGHOFF, CHRISTIANA AND
KORTZ, OCTOBER 20, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, OCTOBER 20, 2015

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 65 (Public Officers) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in open meetings, further providing
3 for public participation.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Section 710.1(a) of Title 65 of the Pennsylvania
7 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

8 § 710.1. Public participation.

9 (a) General rule.--Except as provided in subsection (d), the
10 board or council of a political subdivision or of an authority
11 created by a political subdivision shall provide a reasonable
12 opportunity at each advertised regular meeting and advertised
13 special meeting for residents of the political subdivision or of
14 the authority created by a political subdivision or for
15 taxpayers of the political subdivision or of the authority
16 created by a political subdivision or for both to comment on
17 [matters] each matter of concern, official action or
18 deliberation which [are] is or may be before the board or

1 council prior to taking official action[. The board or council
2 has the option to accept all public comment at the beginning of
3 the meeting.] on the matter. A board or council may not require
4 a resident to register before the meeting in order to comment.
5 If the board or council determines that there is not sufficient
6 time at a meeting for residents of the political subdivision or
7 of the authority created by a political subdivision or for
8 taxpayers of the political subdivision or of the authority
9 created by a political subdivision or for both to comment, the
10 board or council may defer the comment period to the next
11 regular meeting or to a special meeting occurring in advance of
12 the next regular meeting.

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14 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.