
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1137 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY WARD, VOGEL, VULAKOVICH, HUTCHINSON, RAFFERTY,
DINNIMAN, HAYWOOD AND STEFANO, MARCH 7, 2016

REFERRED TO APPROPRIATIONS, MARCH 7, 2016

AN ACT

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

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

6 Section 1. The definition of "public notice" in section 703
7 of Title 65 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended
8 and the section is amended by adding a definition to read:

9 § 703. Definitions.

10 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
11 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
12 context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 * * *

14 "Budget meeting." A gathering of any member of the executive
15 branch of the government of this Commonwealth, including a
16 member of the Governor's Cabinet, and any member of the General
17 Assembly, which is called for the purpose of negotiating a
18 budget for the fiscal year.

1 * * *

2 "Public notice."

3 (1) For a meeting:

4 (i) Publication of notice of the place, date and
5 time of a meeting in a newspaper of general circulation,
6 as defined by 45 Pa.C.S. § 101 (relating to definitions),
7 which is published and circulated in the political
8 subdivision where the meeting will be held, or in a
9 newspaper of general circulation which has a bona fide
10 paid circulation in the political subdivision equal to or
11 greater than any newspaper published in the political
12 subdivision.

13 (ii) Posting a notice of the place, date and time of
14 a meeting prominently at the principal office of the
15 agency holding the meeting or at the public building in
16 which the meeting is to be held.

17 (iii) Giving notice to parties under section 709(c)
18 (relating to public notice).

19 (2) For a recessed or reconvened meeting:

20 (i) Posting a notice of the place, date and time of
21 the meeting prominently at the principal office of the
22 agency holding the meeting or at the public building in
23 which the meeting is to be held.

24 (ii) Giving notice to parties under section 709(c).

25 (3) For a budget meeting:

26 (i) Posting a notice of the place, date and time of
27 the budget meeting prominently on the official, publicly
28 accessible Internet website of the General Assembly and
29 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, using hypertext markup
30 language (HTML) format or an equivalent language format.

1 (ii) Posting a notice of the place, date and time of
2 the budget meeting prominently at the principal office of
3 the agency holding the meeting or at the public building
4 in which the meeting is to be held.

5 * * *

6 Section 2. Section 704 of Title 65 is amended to read:

7 § 704. Open meetings.

8 Official action and deliberations by a quorum of the members
9 of an agency shall take place at a meeting open to the public
10 unless closed under section 707 (relating to exceptions to open
11 meetings), 708 (relating to executive sessions) or 712 (relating
12 to General Assembly meetings covered). An open meeting shall
13 include a budget meeting held after June 30 when a State budget
14 for the same fiscal year:

15 (1) has not been enacted by the General Assembly and
16 signed into law by the Governor; or

17 (2) has been disapproved by the Governor as provided for
18 in section 16 of Article IV of the Constitution of
19 Pennsylvania.

20 Section 3. Section 709 of Title 65 is amended by adding a
21 subsection to read:

22 § 709. Public notice.

23 * * *

24 (f) Budget meetings.--Each budget meeting shall be held
25 within the Capitol Complex. The requirement for public notice
26 shall be complied with if, not later than one hour prior to the
27 budget meeting:

28 (1) The supervisor of the newsroom of the State Capitol
29 Building in Harrisburg is supplied for distribution to the
30 members of the Pennsylvania Legislative Correspondents

1 Association with a minimum of 30 copies of the notice of the
2 date, time and place of the budget meeting.

3 (2) There is a posting of a copy of the notice at public
4 places within the Main Capitol Building, as designated by the
5 Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Clerk of the House of
6 Representatives.

7 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.