

2011 -- S 0643

=====  
LC01711  
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

-----  
A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- OPEN MEETINGS

Introduced By: Senators Moura, and Pinga

Date Introduced: March 10, 2011

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 42-46-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 42-46 entitled "Open  
2 Meetings" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **42-46-2. Definitions.** – As used in this chapter:

4 (1) "Meeting" means the convening of a public body to discuss and/or act upon a matter  
5 over which the public body has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power. As used  
6 herein, the term "meeting" expressly includes, without limiting the generality of the foregoing,  
7 so-called "workshop," "working," or "work" sessions.

8 (2) "Open call" means a public announcement by the chairperson of the committee that  
9 the meeting is going to be held in executive session and the chairperson must indicate which  
10 exception of section 42-46-5 is being involved.

11 (3) "Public body" means any department, agency, commission, committee, board,  
12 council, bureau, or authority or any subdivision thereof of state or municipal government or any  
13 library or other non-profit corporation or other non-profit entity that funded at least twenty-five  
14 percent (25%) of its operational budget in the prior budget year with public funds, and shall  
15 include all authorities defined in section 42-35-1(b). For purposes of this section, any political  
16 party, organization, or unit thereof meeting or convening is not and should not be considered to  
17 be a public body; provided, however, that no such meeting shall be used to circumvent the  
18 requirements of this chapter.

19 (4) "Quorum" , unless otherwise defined by applicable law, means a simple majority of

1 the membership of a public body.

2 (5) "Prevailing plaintiff" includes those persons and entities deemed "prevailing parties"  
3 pursuant to 42 U.S.C. section 1988.

4 (6) "Open forum" means the designated portion of an open meeting, if any, on a properly  
5 posted notice reserved for citizens to address comments to a public body relating to matters  
6 affecting the public business.

7 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC01711  
=====

EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- OPEN MEETINGS

\*\*\*

1           This act would subject non-profits receiving twenty-five percent (25%) of their  
2 operational budgets from public funds to the provisions of the open meeting act.

3           This act would take effect upon passage.

=====  
LC01711  
=====