

SENATE BILL 2741

By Haile

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8,
Chapter 44, Part 1, relative to public meetings.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 44, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) At least forty-eight (48) hours prior to a regular meeting, a state or local governing body subject to this part shall make available to the public, at no charge, the agenda for the upcoming regular meeting in a place accessible to the public. The agenda must reasonably describe the matters to be deliberated or acted upon during the public meeting.

(b) A state or local governing body may deliberate or act upon matters not listed on the agenda of its regular meeting if the body follows its bylaws or properly adopted rules and procedures and complies with all other applicable state laws.

(c) A state or local governing body shall not circumvent the spirit or requirements of this section by withholding items from an agenda for the purpose of avoiding public disclosure of business to be considered by the state or local governing body.

(d) A state or local governing body that maintains a website may make an agenda available to the public through the website. The state or local governing body's website must be considered a place that is accessible to the public for purposes of compliance with subsection (a).

(e) As used in this section, "local governing body" means the governing body of an incorporated city or town, a metropolitan government, or a county.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.