

1 H.135

2 Introduced by Representative Greshin of Warren

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Open Meeting Law

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to exempt  
7 certain meetings of subcommittees of public bodies from the requirements of  
8 Vermont's Open Meeting Law.

9 An act relating to subcommittee meetings under the Open Meeting Law

10 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

11 Sec. 1. 1 V.S.A. § 310 is amended to read:

12 § 310. DEFINITIONS

13 As used in this subchapter:

14 \* \* \*

15 (2) "Meeting" means a gathering of a quorum of the members of a  
16 public body for the purpose of discussing the business of the public body or for  
17 the purpose of taking action. "Meeting" shall not ~~mean~~ include:

18 (A) ~~written~~ Written correspondence or an electronic communication,  
19 including e-mail, telephone, or teleconferencing, between members of a public  
20 body for the purpose of scheduling a meeting, organizing an agenda, or

1 distributing materials to discuss at a meeting, provided that such a written  
2 correspondence or such an electronic communication that results in written or  
3 recorded information shall be available for inspection and copying under the  
4 Public Records Act as set forth in chapter 5, subchapter 3 of this title.

5 (B) A meeting of a subcommittee of a public body, if the  
6 subcommittee has no authority to take a binding action at the meeting.  
7 Subcommittee meetings that may fall within this exception include meetings to  
8 gather information or formulate recommendations for consideration by the  
9 public body, even if a quorum of the members of the subcommittee discuss the  
10 business of the public body.

11 (3) "Public body" means any board, council, or commission of the State  
12 or one or more of its political subdivisions, any board, council, or commission  
13 of any agency, authority, or instrumentality of the State or one or more of its  
14 political subdivisions, or any committee of any of the foregoing boards,  
15 councils, or commissions, except that "public body" does not include councils  
16 or similar groups established by the Governor for the sole purpose of advising  
17 the Governor with respect to policy.

18 \* \* \*

19 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICABILITY

20 (a) This act shall take effect on passage.

1        (b) The revisions to 1 V.S.A. § 310 made in Sec. 1 of this act shall be the  
2        law that governs any Open Meeting Law enforcement action under 1 V.S.A.  
3        § 314 initiated on or after the effective date of this act, even if the enforcement  
4        action arises from a meeting that occurred prior to the effective date of this act.