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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

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Office

**H.B. 609**  
**(I\_136\_2754-2)**  
**136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

## **Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement**

[Click here for H.B. 609's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** In House General Government

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. D. Thomas and Craig

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

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### **Highlights**

- The bill requires public bodies to provide individuals, upon request, with reasonable advance notice of upcoming meetings. Presumably, this would be done through email lists, which would result in some additional but negligible administrative burden.

### **Detailed Analysis**

The bill modifies the Open Meetings Law to require that a public body, before taking formal action on any item, allow public commentary and testimony. The bill also grants public bodies discretion to establish reasonable restrictions on the length and nature of the commentary and testimony. Presumably, most public bodies already allow for some form of public comment during open meetings. However, in cases where no public comment is permitted, this provision may extend the length of those meetings.

The bill also requires that a public body provide any person, upon request, reasonable advance notification of all meetings in which public business is discussed. The bill specifies that advance notification may include mailing the agenda of meetings to any subscribers on a mailing list or mailing notices in self-addressed, stamped envelopes provided by the person. The bill further allows a public body to require a person pay a reasonable fee to obtain advance notification of meetings by means other than email. Presumably, most public bodies would use email lists as the method of providing notices to subscribers. As such, there would be some negligible costs associated with creating and maintaining these lists, as well as sending the email providing notice of an upcoming meeting.

### **Synopsis of Fiscal Effect Changes**

The substitute bill (I\_136\_2754-2) requires a public body to provide any person, upon request, reasonable advance notification of all meetings in which public business is discussed.

The bill specifies that advance notification may include mailing the agenda of meetings electronically to any subscribers on a mailing list or mailing notices in self-addressed, stamped envelopes provided by the person. This may result in some negligible additional administrative burden for the relevant public body.

The substitute bill also makes some modifications to the rules a public body may adopt related to the time, place, and manner restrictions regarding public comments at an open meeting. There does not appear to be any fiscal impact associated with these changes.