

By: Representatives Wilson, Sykes

To: Accountability,  
Efficiency, Transparency

HOUSE BILL NO. 1116  
(As Sent to Governor)

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-41-13, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO REQUIRE NOTICE OF CALLED SPECIAL MEETINGS TO BE POSTED TO A  
3 PUBLIC BODY'S WEBSITE NOT LESS THAN ONE HOUR BEFORE THE MEETING,  
4 EXCEPT FOR MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNTIES WITH A CERTAIN POPULATION;  
5 TO PROVIDE THAT A COPY OF THE NOTICE SHALL BE TRANSMITTED TO ANY  
6 CITIZEN AND ANY PUBLICATION, BROADCAST AND DIGITAL MEDIA NOT LESS  
7 THAN ONE HOUR BEFORE THE MEETING IF REQUESTED IN WRITING TO  
8 RECEIVE THE NOTICE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

10 **SECTION 1.** Section 25-41-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
11 amended as follows:

12 25-41-13. (1) Any public body which holds its meetings at  
13 such times and places and by such procedures as are specifically  
14 prescribed by statute shall continue to do so and no additional  
15 notice of such meetings shall be required except that:

16 (a) A notice of the place, date, hour and subject  
17 matter of any recess meeting, adjourned meeting, interim meeting  
18 or any called special meeting shall be posted within one (1) hour  
19 after such meeting is called in a prominent place available to  
20 examination and inspection by the general public in the building  
21 in which the public body normally meets. A copy of the notice



22 shall be made a part of the minutes or other permanent official  
23 records of the public body \* \* \*; and

24 (b) Except as otherwise provided by law, a notice of a  
25 called special meeting shall be posted to the public body's  
26 website, if the public body has a website and has the capability  
27 to update the website, not less than one (1) hour before the  
28 meeting. A copy of this notice shall be transmitted via email or  
29 facsimile not less than one (1) hour before the meeting to any  
30 citizen and any publication, broadcast and digital media with a  
31 general circulation or coverage within the public body's  
32 jurisdiction, that has submitted in writing its interest to  
33 receive these notices. Any public body may, at its discretion,  
34 purge any list of publications, broadcasts or digital media that  
35 have requested to receive the notices once every twenty-four (24)  
36 months. After the purge, any publication, broadcast or digital  
37 media may resubmit in writing its interest to receive the notices.  
38 Nothing in this paragraph (b) shall add additional notice  
39 requirements for meetings of public bodies held in cases of  
40 emergencies. The provision of this paragraph (b) requiring notice  
41 to be posted on the public body's website shall not apply to  
42 municipalities with a population as determined by the latest  
43 federal decennial census of less than twenty-five thousand  
44 (25,000) inhabitants, and any county with less than fifty thousand  
45 (50,000) according to the latest federal decennial census.



46           (2) Any public body, other than a legislative committee,  
47 which does not have statutory provisions prescribing the times and  
48 places and the procedures by which its meetings are to be held  
49 shall, at its first regular or special meeting after the effective  
50 date of this chapter spread upon its minutes the times and places  
51 and the procedures by which all of its meetings are to be held.

52           (3) Notice of any regular meeting held by a state agency,  
53 other than a legislative committee, shall be submitted to the  
54 Department of Finance and Administration at least twenty-four (24)  
55 hours before the meeting in order to be posted on the department's  
56 searchable website created by the Mississippi Accountability and  
57 Transparency Act, Section 27-104-152 et seq. For purposes of this  
58 subsection, the term "state agency" means an agency, department,  
59 institution, board, commission, council, office, bureau, division,  
60 committee or subcommittee of the state. However, the term "state  
61 agency" does not include institutions of higher learning,  
62 community and junior colleges, counties or municipalities.

63           (4) During a regular or special session of the Mississippi  
64 Legislature, notice of meetings of all committees, other than  
65 conference committees, shall be given by announcement on the  
66 loudspeaker during sessions of the House of Representatives or  
67 Senate or by posting on a bulletin board provided for that purpose  
68 by each body.

69           (5) When not in session, the meeting times and places of all  
70 committees shall be kept by the Clerk of the House of



71 Representatives as to House committees and by the Secretary of the  
72 Senate as to Senate committees, and shall be available at all  
73 times during regular working hours to the public and news media.

74         **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
75 and after July 1, 2017.

