

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BLOG

New Changes To Illinois Open Meetings Act Laws

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On August 27, 2021 Governor Pritzker signed into law Public Act 102-0653 making changes to Illinois's Open Meetings Act (OMA) law. While OMA previously required public bodies to meet on a semi-annual basis to review minutes of closed meetings, the new law requires public bodies to hold meetings to review closed session minutes every 6 months, or as soon thereafter as practicable. Committees which are ad hoc in nature shall review their closed session minutes at the later of: (1) 6 months from the date of the last review of closed session minutes; or (2) at the next scheduled meeting of the ad hoc committee.

The new law also cleans up a previously unaddressed issue of who maintains or reviews closed session minutes of a dissolved, disbanded, eliminated, or consolidated public body. The public body assuming the functions of the prior public body is now charged with responsibility for review and release of the prior public body's closed session minutes.

The above changes go into effect January 1, 2022. For assistance in compliance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act, or for closed session tape destruction policies, please contact the attorneys of the Local Government Legal Team.