

1 H.168

2 Introduced by Representatives Wilson of Manchester and Masland of Thetford

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Government operations; open meetings; notice

6 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to allow a public body to provide
7 notice of a regular or special meeting to each member of the public body by
8 electronic mail, provided that a copy of the notice provided by electronic mail
9 is posted in or near the municipal clerk's office and on the website, if one
10 exists, of the public body.

11 An act relating to notice of meetings of public bodies

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

13 Sec. 1. 1 V.S.A. § 312(c) is amended to read:

14 (c)(1) The time and place of all regular meetings subject to this section
15 shall be clearly designated by statute, charter, regulation, ordinance, bylaw,
16 resolution, or other determining authority of the public body and this
17 information shall be available to any person upon request.

18 (2) The time, place and purpose of a special meeting subject to this
19 section shall be publicly announced at least 24 hours before the meeting.

20 Municipal public bodies shall post notices of special meetings in or near the

1 municipal clerk's office and in at least two other public places in the
2 municipality, at least 24 hours before the meeting. In addition, notice shall be
3 given, either orally or in writing, to each member of the public body at least 24
4 hours before the meeting, except that a member may waive notice of a special
5 meeting.

6 (3) Emergency meetings may be held without public announcement,
7 without posting of notices and without 24-hour notice to members, provided
8 some public notice thereof is given as soon as possible before any such
9 meeting. Emergency meetings may be held only when necessary to respond to
10 an unforeseen occurrence or condition requiring immediate attention by the
11 public body.

12 (4) Any adjourned meeting shall be considered a new meeting, unless
13 the time and place for the adjourned meeting is announced before the meeting
14 adjourns.

15 (5) An editor, publisher, or news director of any newspaper, radio
16 station, or television station serving the area of the state in which the public
17 body has jurisdiction may request in writing that a public body notify the
18 editor, publisher, or news director of special meetings of the public body. The
19 request shall apply only to the calendar year in which it is made, unless made
20 in December, in which case it shall apply also to the following year.

1 (6) A public body may provide notice of a regular or special meeting to
2 each member of the public body by electronic mail, provided that a copy of the
3 notice provided by electronic mail is posted in or near the municipal clerk's
4 office and on the website, if one exists, of the public body.

5 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

6 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.