

SB1965



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB1965

Introduced 2/6/2025, by Sen. Cristina Castro

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

5 ILCS 120/1.05

Amends the Open Meetings Act. In provisions regarding training, requires the Public Access Counselor to complete an accessibility review for electronic training under the Illinois Information Technology Accessibility Act and rules adopted under that Act. Provides for procedures to bring the training into compliance with the Illinois Information Technology Accessibility Act. Requires the establishment of an accessibility helpline, with certain requirements.

LRB104 09791 BDA 19857 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Open Meetings Act is amended by changing
5 Section 1.05 as follows:

6 (5 ILCS 120/1.05)

7 Sec. 1.05. Training.

8 (a) Every public body shall designate employees, officers,
9 or members to receive training on compliance with this Act.
10 Each public body shall submit a list of designated employees,
11 officers, or members to the Public Access Counselor. Within 6
12 months after January 1, 2010 (the effective date of Public Act
13 96-542), the designated employees, officers, and members must
14 successfully complete an electronic training curriculum,
15 developed and administered by the Public Access Counselor, and
16 thereafter must successfully complete an annual training
17 program. Thereafter, whenever a public body designates an
18 additional employee, officer, or member to receive this
19 training, that person must successfully complete the
20 electronic training curriculum within 30 days after that
21 designation.

22 (a-2) Within 30 days of the effective date of this
23 amendatory Act of the 104th General Assembly, the Public

1 Access Counselor must complete an accessibility review to
2 determine that every step of the electronic training is
3 accessible under the Illinois Information Technology
4 Accessibility Act and its associated rules. If the Public
5 Access Counselor determines that any portion of the electronic
6 training, including the registration page for such training,
7 is not in compliance with the Act, then, within 30 days of
8 completion of this review, the Public Access Counselor must
9 take steps, including entering into contracts or agreements
10 with third party vendors, to bring the electronic training
11 into compliance. In addition to completing an accessibility
12 review, within 180 days of this amendatory Act, the Public
13 Access Counselor must bring into operation an accessibility
14 helpline. This helpline must be available for live calls or,
15 if 24/7 live calls are not possible, must have the capacity to
16 return calls within 3 calendar days. This helpline must be
17 available for the purposes of aiding individuals who, by
18 reason of disability or otherwise, are unable to independently
19 register for and complete the electronic training without an
20 undue burden. The helpline operator must assist the individual
21 taking the training to complete that training. Means of
22 assistance must include the use of remote desktop access with
23 the express permission of the individual taking the training.

24 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this Section, each
25 elected or appointed member of a public body subject to this
26 Act who is such a member on January 1, 2012 (the effective date

1 of Public Act 97-504) must successfully complete the
2 electronic training curriculum developed and administered by
3 the Public Access Counselor. For these members, the training
4 must be completed within one year after January 1, 2012 (the
5 effective date of Public Act 97-504).

6 Except as otherwise provided in this Section, each elected
7 or appointed member of a public body subject to this Act who
8 becomes such a member after January 1, 2012 (the effective
9 date of Public Act 97-504) shall successfully complete the
10 electronic training curriculum developed and administered by
11 the Public Access Counselor. For these members, the training
12 must be completed not later than the 90th day after the date
13 the member:

14 (1) takes the oath of office, if the member is
15 required to take an oath of office to assume the person's
16 duties as a member of the public body; or

17 (2) otherwise assumes responsibilities as a member of
18 the public body, if the member is not required to take an
19 oath of office to assume the person's duties as a member of
20 the governmental body.

21 Each member successfully completing the electronic
22 training curriculum shall file a copy of the certificate of
23 completion with the public body.

24 Completing the required training as a member of the public
25 body satisfies the requirements of this Section with regard to
26 the member's service on a committee or subcommittee of the

1 public body and the member's ex officio service on any other
2 public body.

3 The failure of one or more members of a public body to
4 complete the training required by this Section does not affect
5 the validity of an action taken by the public body.

6 An elected or appointed member of a public body subject to
7 this Act who has successfully completed the training required
8 under this subsection (b) and filed a copy of the certificate
9 of completion with the public body is not required to
10 subsequently complete the training required under this
11 subsection (b).

12 (c) An elected school board member may satisfy the
13 training requirements of this Section by participating in a
14 course of training sponsored or conducted by an organization
15 created under Article 23 of the School Code. The course of
16 training shall include, but not be limited to, instruction in:

17 (1) the general background of the legal requirements
18 for open meetings;

19 (2) the applicability of this Act to public bodies;

20 (3) procedures and requirements regarding quorums,
21 notice, and record-keeping under this Act;

22 (4) procedures and requirements for holding an open
23 meeting and for holding a closed meeting under this Act;
24 and

25 (5) penalties and other consequences for failing to
26 comply with this Act.

1 If an organization created under Article 23 of the School
2 Code provides a course of training under this subsection (c),
3 it must provide a certificate of course completion to each
4 school board member who successfully completes that course of
5 training.

6 (d) A commissioner of a drainage district may satisfy the
7 training requirements of this Section by participating in a
8 course of training sponsored or conducted by an organization
9 that represents the drainage districts created under the
10 Illinois Drainage Code. The course of training shall include,
11 but not be limited to, instruction in:

12 (1) the general background of the legal requirements
13 for open meetings;

14 (2) the applicability of this Act to public bodies;

15 (3) procedures and requirements regarding quorums,
16 notice, and record-keeping under this Act;

17 (4) procedures and requirements for holding an open
18 meeting and for holding a closed meeting under this Act;
19 and

20 (5) penalties and other consequences for failing to
21 comply with this Act.

22 If an organization that represents the drainage districts
23 created under the Illinois Drainage Code provides a course of
24 training under this subsection (d), it must provide a
25 certificate of course completion to each commissioner who
26 successfully completes that course of training.

1 (e) A director of a soil and water conservation district
2 may satisfy the training requirements of this Section by
3 participating in a course of training sponsored or conducted
4 by an organization that represents soil and water conservation
5 districts created under the Soil and Water Conservation
6 Districts Act. The course of training shall include, but not
7 be limited to, instruction in:

8 (1) the general background of the legal requirements
9 for open meetings;

10 (2) the applicability of this Act to public bodies;

11 (3) procedures and requirements regarding quorums,
12 notice, and record-keeping under this Act;

13 (4) procedures and requirements for holding an open
14 meeting and for holding a closed meeting under this Act;
15 and

16 (5) penalties and other consequences for failing to
17 comply with this Act.

18 If an organization that represents the soil and water
19 conservation districts created under the Soil and Water
20 Conservation Districts Act provides a course of training under
21 this subsection (e), it must provide a certificate of course
22 completion to each director who successfully completes that
23 course of training.

24 (f) An elected or appointed member of a public body of a
25 park district, forest preserve district, or conservation
26 district may satisfy the training requirements of this Section

1 by participating in a course of training sponsored or
2 conducted by an organization that represents the park
3 districts created in the Park District Code. The course of
4 training shall include, but not be limited to, instruction in:

5 (1) the general background of the legal requirements
6 for open meetings;

7 (2) the applicability of this Act to public bodies;

8 (3) procedures and requirements regarding quorums,
9 notice, and record-keeping under this Act;

10 (4) procedures and requirements for holding an open
11 meeting and for holding a closed meeting under this Act;
12 and

13 (5) penalties and other consequences for failing to
14 comply with this Act.

15 If an organization that represents the park districts
16 created in the Park District Code provides a course of
17 training under this subsection (f), it must provide a
18 certificate of course completion to each elected or appointed
19 member of a public body who successfully completes that course
20 of training.

21 (g) An elected or appointed member of the board of
22 trustees of a fire protection district may satisfy the
23 training requirements of this Section by participating in a
24 course of training sponsored or conducted by an organization
25 that represents fire protection districts created under the
26 Fire Protection District Act. The course of training shall

1 include, but not be limited to, instruction in:

2 (1) the general background of the legal requirements
3 for open meetings;

4 (2) the applicability of this Act to public bodies;

5 (3) procedures and requirements regarding quorums,
6 notice, and record-keeping under this Act;

7 (4) procedures and requirements for holding an open
8 meeting and for holding a closed meeting under this Act;
9 and

10 (5) penalties and other consequences for failing to
11 comply with this Act.

12 If an organization that represents fire protection
13 districts organized under the Fire Protection District Act
14 provides a course of training under this subsection (g), it
15 must provide a certificate of course completion to each
16 elected or appointed member of a board of trustees who
17 successfully completes that course of training.

18 (h) An elected or appointed member of a public body of a
19 municipality may satisfy the training requirements of this
20 Section by participating in a course of training sponsored or
21 conducted by an organization that represents municipalities as
22 designated in Section 1-8-1 of the Illinois Municipal Code.
23 The course of training shall include, but not be limited to,
24 instruction in:

25 (1) the general background of the legal requirements
26 for open meetings;

- 1 (2) the applicability of this Act to public bodies;
- 2 (3) procedures and requirements regarding quorums,
- 3 notice, and record-keeping under this Act;
- 4 (4) procedures and requirements for holding an open
- 5 meeting and for holding a closed meeting under this Act;
- 6 and
- 7 (5) penalties and other consequences for failing to
- 8 comply with this Act.

9 If an organization that represents municipalities as

10 designated in Section 1-8-1 of the Illinois Municipal Code

11 provides a course of training under this subsection (h), it

12 must provide a certificate of course completion to each

13 elected or appointed member of a public body who successfully

14 completes that course of training.

15 (Source: P.A. 101-233, eff. 1-1-20; 102-558, eff. 8-20-21.)