

2003 SENATE BILL 430

February 4, 2004 – Introduced by Senator HANSEN, cosponsored by Representatives TURNER, BERCEAU, HINES, SERATTI and ZEPNICK. Referred to Committee on Homeland Security, Veterans and Military Affairs and Government Reform.

- 1 **AN ACT to create** 19.34 (1m), 19.91, 59.52 (2m) and 165.25 (12) of the statutes;
2 **relating to:** notice of the open meetings and public records access laws.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Currently, each state and local governmental unit must adopt, prominently display, and make available for inspection and copying at its offices a notice containing a general description of its organization and the established times and places at which, the legal custodians from whom, and the methods whereby the public may obtain information or copies of records in its custody and the costs thereof. There is no parallel requirement under the open meetings law, but state and local governmental bodies must provide notices of their meetings in the manner specified in that law.

This bill requires each county, city, village, and town to prominently display a copy of the general statutory provisions governing access to public records in each of its offices that is accessible to the general public. The bill also requires each governmental body of a county, city, village, and town to prominently display a copy of the open meetings law in each of its offices that is accessible to the general public. In addition, the bill directs the Department of Justice to prepare and periodically revise as necessary a description in plain language of the effect of the open meetings law and the general statutory provisions governing access to public records. The bill provides that if a county publishes a directory the county shall include the description in the directory.

No specific penalty applies to violations, although the requirements imposed under the bill are enforceable through the court system.

