



# State of Tennessee

## PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 300

HOUSE BILL NO. 448

By Representatives Davis, Fritts, Cepicky, Hardaway, Lynn, Slater

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 551

By Senators Lowe, Jackson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 44, Part 1, relative to public meetings.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 44, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) A governing body shall, for each public meeting, reserve a period for public comment to provide the public with the opportunity to comment on matters that are germane to the items on the agenda for the meeting.

(b) The governing body may put reasonable restrictions on the period for public comment, such as the length of the period, the number of speakers, and the length of time that each speaker will be allowed to provide comment. The governing body may require a person to give notice in advance of the desire to offer comments at a meeting. The governing body shall take all practicable steps to ensure that opposing viewpoints are represented fairly, if any.

(c) A notice for a public meeting shall indicate the manner in which a person may indicate the person's desire to provide public comment at the meeting.

(d) This section does not apply to:

(1) A meeting of a governing body, or a portion thereof, where the governing body is conducting a disciplinary hearing for a member of the governing body or a person whose profession or activities fall within the jurisdiction of the governing body; or

(2) A meeting for which there are no actionable items on the agenda.

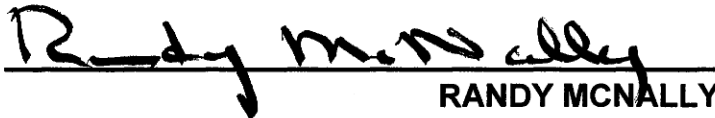
SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: April 5, 2023



CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RANDY MCNALLY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April 2023



BILL LEE, GOVERNOR