

FAILED: HOUSE BILL 396

ASSOCIATION OPEN MEETING AMENDMENTS



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House Bill 396 (HB 396) entitled "Association Open Meeting Amendments," passed the house March 7, 2014 on a vote of 74-0-1. The first reading in the Senate occurred on March 10 and the second reading on March 12. The last day of the 2014 Session was March 13,, and HB 396, along with many other bills, did not reach the Senate floor for a final vote before the session ended at midnight.

It is the intention of the Legislative Action Committee to promote this legislation in the 2015 session. The vote in the House was 74-0 in favor with no opposition to the bill. As a society we favor transparency in government. Likewise owners living in community associations favor transparency in how their association is governed.

There are individuals whose views are at both ends of the spectrum. Each is passionate and has strong feelings about the topic. Some would say the bill does not go far enough, others say if it is not broken don't fix it. To an extent each is right. Both sides have had to give but in the end we did not allow perfect to become the enemy of good.

Several years ago open meeting legislation was proposed. The original concepts presented were somewhat draconian in comparison to those in HB 396. These changes occurred because the individuals who proposed the legislation (1) sought input from others, (2) were open to the suggestions and insights others had on the topic, (3) were open to adopting those suggestions that made the bill more favorable, and (4) they did not allow a singular tangent or pride to dissuade them from working towards the greater good. In the end the language in HB 396 was modified to enable compliance without complication, clarity over ambiguity, and simplicity rather than confusion.



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