



Senate Fiscal Agency
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

BILL ANALYSIS



Telephone: (517) 373-5383
Fax: (517) 373-1986

Senate Bill 288 (as introduced 5-7-25)

Sponsor: Senator Veronica Klinefelt

Committee: Local Government

Date Completed: 6-2-25

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Open Meetings Act to expand the reasons that a public body could hold a closed session to include specific attorney consultation and the consideration of a claim, lawsuit, or criminal investigation concerning the body.

Generally, the Act requires certain meetings of public bodies to be open to the public; however, a public body may meet in a closed session for certain purposes. One allowed purpose is to consult with an attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with specific pending litigation, but only if an open meeting would have a detrimental financial effect on the litigating or settlement position of the public body. Instead, under the bill, a public body could meet in a closed session to consult with its attorney regarding the following:

- Pending or notice of potential litigation in which the public body or a member of the public body was a party or a potential party.
- The attorney's oral or written legal opinion, regardless of the attorney's presence.

In addition, a public body could meet in a closed session for the following purposes:

- To consider a demand or offer made to or by the public body to settle a claim against the public body or a member of the public body.
- To consider a lawsuit the public body was contemplating filing.
- To consult regarding a criminal investigation against a public body member or employee.

MCL 15.268

PREVIOUS LEGISLATION

The bill is a reintroduction of Senate Bill 1023 from the 2023-2024 Legislative Session. Senate Bill 1023 passed the Senate and was referred to the House Committee on Government Operations but received no further action.

Legislative Analyst: Alex Krabill

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

Fiscal Analysts: Bobby Canell
Joe Carrasco, Jr.

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