

Open Meeting Law

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What is the Open Meeting Law (OML)?

- State laws that require governmental body meetings to be open to the public
- Laws for LSOHC:
 - Minn. Stat. § 97A.056
 - Chapter 13D
 - Minn. Stat. § 3.055
 - But also case law, AG opinions, Admin advisory opinions

Purposes of OML



Image from <https://www.mncourts.gov/supremecourt.aspx>

- Prohibit actions in secret
 - Keep the public informed
 - Opportunity for public to share views
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- Courts favor openness

Entities covered by OML

- State and local multimember governmental bodies
- Political subdivision nonprofits
- Legislature
- Hybrid entities (like LSOHC)

When OML applies

- Quorum rule
 - LSOHC: Meeting = quorum + info received/action taken
 - Quorum = 7 members
- Not social gatherings, trainings
 - So long as no business discussed
- LSOHC: Travel to and from site visits exempt from OML
 - But don't talk business!

Interactive Technology

- Requirements:
 - Must be able to hear one another
 - Public can hear discussion, testimony, votes
 - One member at the regular meeting location
 - Vote by roll call
- Notice requirements met

LSOHC

- Hybrid
 - Different enforcement for legislative v. nonlegislative members
- Can establish other processes to broaden public involvement
- Meetings must be live streamed and archived if at Capitol and to extent practical at other sites

OML Advice

- Attorney
- Attorney General
- Department of Administration

Questions?



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