

SENATE BILL NO. 288

May 07, 2025, Introduced by Senator KLINEFELT and referred to Committee on Local Government.

A bill to amend 1976 PA 267, entitled
"Open meetings act,"
by amending section 8 (MCL 15.268), as amended by 2021 PA 166.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 8. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2), a
2 public body may meet in a closed session only for the following
3 purposes:
4 (a) To consider the dismissal, suspension, or disciplining of,
5 or to hear complaints or charges brought against, or to consider a
6 periodic personnel evaluation of, a public officer, employee, staff

member, or individual agent, if the named individual requests a closed ~~hearing-session~~. An individual requesting a closed ~~hearing~~ **session** may rescind the request at any time, ~~in which case after~~ **which** the matter at issue must be considered ~~after the rescission~~ only in open sessions.

(b) To consider the dismissal, suspension, or disciplining of a student if the public body is part of the school district, intermediate school district, or institution of higher education that the student is attending, and if the student or the student's parent or guardian requests a closed ~~hearing-session~~.

(c) For strategy and negotiation sessions connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement if either negotiating party requests a closed ~~hearing-session~~.

(d) To consider the purchase or lease of real property up to the time an option to purchase or lease that real property is obtained.

(e) To consult with its attorney regarding ~~trial or settlement strategy in connection with specific pending~~ **either of the following:**

(i) **Pending or notice of potential** litigation, ~~but only if an open meeting would have a detrimental financial effect on the litigating or settlement position of the public body.~~ **in which the public body or a member of the public body is a party or a potential party.**

(ii) **The attorney's oral or written legal opinion. This subdivision does not prevent a public body from meeting in a closed session under subdivision (h), if applicable, to consider a written legal opinion from its attorney without its attorney being present.**

(f) To review and consider the contents of an application for

1 employment or appointment to a public office if the candidate
2 requests that the application remain confidential. However, except
3 as otherwise provided in this subdivision, all interviews by a
4 public body for employment or appointment to a public office must
5 be held in an open meeting ~~pursuant to~~ **under** this act. This
6 subdivision does not apply to a public office described in
7 subdivision (j).

8 (g) Partisan caucuses of members of the state legislature.

9 (h) To consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure
10 by state or federal statute.

11 (i) For a compliance conference conducted under section 16231
12 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.16231, before a
13 complaint is issued.

14 (j) In the process of searching for and selecting a president
15 of an institution of higher education established under section 4,
16 5, or 6 of article VIII of the state constitution of 1963, to
17 review the specific contents of an application, to conduct an
18 interview with a candidate, or to discuss the specific
19 qualifications of a candidate if the particular process of
20 searching for and selecting a president of an institution of higher
21 education meets all of the following requirements:

22 (i) The search committee in the process, appointed by the
23 governing board, consists of at least 1 student of the institution,
24 1 faculty member of the institution, 1 administrator of the
25 institution, 1 alumnus of the institution, and 1 representative of
26 the general public. The search committee also may include 1 or more
27 members of the governing board of the institution, but ~~the number~~
28 ~~does not constitute~~ **may not include** a quorum of the governing
29 board. However, ~~the search committee must not be constituted in~~

1 ~~such a way that any 1~~ **none** of the groups described in this
2 subparagraph ~~constitutes~~ **may constitute** a majority of the search
3 committee.

4 (ii) After the search committee recommends the 5 final
5 candidates, the governing board does not take a vote on a final
6 selection for the president until at least 30 days after ~~the 5~~
7 ~~final candidates have been publicly identified by the search~~
8 committee **publicly identifies those candidates.**

9 (iii) The deliberations and vote of the governing board of the
10 institution on selecting the president take place in an open
11 session of the governing board.

12 (k) For a school board to consider security planning to
13 address existing threats or prevent potential threats to the safety
14 of the students and staff. As used in this subdivision, "school
15 board" means any of the following:

16 (i) That term as defined in section 3 of the revised school
17 code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.3.

18 (ii) An intermediate school board as that term is defined in
19 section 4 of the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.4.

20 (iii) A board of directors of a public school academy as
21 described in section 502 of the revised school code, 1976 PA 451,
22 MCL 380.502.

23 (iv) The local governing board of a public community or junior
24 college as described in section 7 of article VIII of the state
25 constitution of 1963.

26 (l) For a county veteran services committee to interview a
27 veteran or a veteran's spouse or dependent regarding that
28 individual's application for benefits or financial assistance and
29 discuss that individual's application for benefits or financial

1 assistance, if the applicant requests a closed ~~hearing~~ **session**.
2 This subdivision does not apply to a county veteran services
3 committee voting on whether to grant or deny an individual's
4 application for benefits or financial assistance. As used in this
5 subdivision, "county veteran services committee" means a committee
6 created by a county board of commissioners under section 1 of 1953
7 PA 192, MCL 35.621, or a soldiers' relief commission created under
8 section 2 of 1899 PA 214, MCL 35.22.

9 **(m) To consider a demand or offer made to or by the public**
10 **body to settle a claim against the public body or a member of the**
11 **public body.**

12 **(n) To consider a lawsuit the public body is contemplating**
13 **filing.**

14 **(o) To consult regarding a criminal investigation against a**
15 **member or an employee of the public body.**

16 (2) This act does not permit the independent citizens
17 redistricting commission to meet in closed session for any purpose.
18 As used in this subsection, "independent citizens redistricting
19 commission" means the independent citizens redistricting commission
20 for state legislative and congressional districts created in
21 section 6 of article IV of the state constitution of 1963.