

# **Vermont's Open Meeting Law**

Open Meeting Law resources have been updated to reflect revisions to the law from the 2025 legislative session. [Text of Bill](#)

**January 1, 2025** - New Open Meeting Law training requirements took effect

**June 9, 2025** - [Act 51 \(2025\)](#) changes took effect.

### Open Meeting Law Changes 2025

- Require the posting of meeting recordings when the minutes are posted, as opposed to when the minutes are approved
- Change the definition of “undue hardship”
- Add an exception to the law's recording requirements for non-advisory public bodies' site inspections or field visits
- Allow meeting notices to be posted in a neighboring town if there are not enough public places within the municipality's borders
- Require meeting agendas to include sufficient details on the specific business to be discussed and details on proposed executive session, if included
- Add a requirement to vote to exit executive session (not just enter it)
- Add two allowances for executive session (one being cybersecurity if jeopardizing public safety)
- Defines “disturbs any lawful assembly or meeting of persons” for purposes of managing meetings, consistently with our past guidance.



## General Information

In Act 133 (2024) and Act 51 (2025), the Legislature made permanent changes to the Open Meeting Law. They are summarized in the resources below, which include a webinar that incorporates the 2024 changes. Note that the VLCT webinar is ***not the required annual training*** offered by the Secretary of State. Beginning January 1, 2025, the law requires annual OML training for State chairs of non-advisory ("decision-making") bodies and for local chairs of legislative bodies, municipal managers, and mayors.

**Access the Vermont Secretary of State's required training, here: [Open Meeting Law Training](#)**

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Transparency is an essential element of open and democratic government. In Vermont, the primary means of providing transparency are the State's open meeting law, [1 V.S.A. §§ 310-314](#), and the public records law, [1 V.S.A. §§ 315-320](#). These laws implement the command of Chapter I, Article 6 of the Vermont Constitution that officers of government are "trustees and servants" of the people and are "at all times, in a legal way, accountable to them."

The Open Meeting Law clearly emphasizes the openness of and accessibility to government. It declares that "All meetings of a public body are declared to be open to the public at all times, except as provided in section 313 of this title [on executive sessions]." [1 V.S.A. § 312\(a\)](#). The Open Meeting Law and its requirements are meant to empower the public to play an effective role as not only an active participant in government but also a check on it as well.



Every municipal board, council, commission and committees (legally defined as “public bodies”) of a municipality is required to comply with the Open Meeting Law. The Law applies when there is (1) a quorum of a public body; (2) involved in a discussion or taking action; and (3) the subject matter of the discussion is one over which the body has authority or responsibility.

Scroll down to view our current Open Meeting Law Resources.

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**Disclaimer:** This resource is only intended to provide information and it does **NOT** constitute legal advice. Readers with specific legal questions are encouraged to contact an attorney. The use or downloading of this resource does **NOT** create an attorney-client relationship and will not be treated in a confidential manner.

If you have additional questions please use the ask a question button to submit them.

Ask a Question

## Open Meeting Law Basics

## Hybrid and Remote Meetings

## Procedures and Effective Meetings

