

Haverhill School Committee
Policy BEC-L

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS
LEGAL LANGUAGE

As used in this section and in section twenty-three B, the word "board" shall include every board, commission, committee and sub-committee, however elected, appointed or otherwise constituted, of any district, city or town. It shall also include the governing board of every local housing, redevelopment or similar authority. All board meetings shall be open to the public and to the press unless the board shall note to go into executive session. Such executive session may be held only for the purpose of discussing, deliberating or voting on those matters which by general or special statute, or federal grant-in-aid requirements cannot be made public, and those matters which if made public might adversely affect the public security, the financial interest of the district, city, town or local housing authority, or the reputation of any person; provided, however, that the meetings of any such board which shall be investigating any board or agency of a municipal government, or any legislation which could ultimately change or alter the existing governmental structure of a city or town, shall, at all times, be open to the public and to the press, notwithstanding a vote of such board to go into executive session.

Except in an emergency, a notice of each board meeting shall be filed with the clerk of the municipality in which the board acts, and the notice or a copy thereof shall, at least forty-eight hours, including Saturdays but not Sundays and legal holidays, prior to such meeting, be publicly posted in the office of such clerk or on the principal official bulletin board of such municipality. The secretary of a regional school district committee shall be considered to be its clerk, and notices of its meetings shall be filed with its secretary and posted in his office or on the principal official bulletin board of the district. If the meeting shall be of a board of a newly organized municipality having neither clerk nor official bulletin board, the officer calling the meeting shall file the notice thereof with the clerk of each city and town within such municipality, and each such clerk shall post the notice in his office or on the principal official bulletin board of his city or town. For the purposes of this section, "emergency" shall mean a situation where immediate, undelayed action is deemed by the board to be imperative.

Every board shall maintain accurate records setting for the action taken at each meeting. A summary of all matters voted shall be made available with reasonable promptness after each meeting; provided, however, that votes taken in executive session may remain secret so long as their publication would defeat the lawful purposes of the executive session, but no longer. The records of each meeting shall become a public record and be available to the public upon being approved; provided, however, that the records of any executive session may remain secret so long as their publication would defeat the lawful purposes of the executive session, but no longer.

M.G.L. Chapter 39, Section 23a (For further information, see Chapter 39, Sections 23b and 23c)

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