

Regular Session, 2005

ACT No. 474

HOUSE BILL NO. 252

BY REPRESENTATIVE ARNOLD

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 42:5.1, relative to open meetings; to provide for public comment
3 at meetings of school boards; to exempt certain school boards from requirements
4 relative to public comment at school board meetings; to provide for certain school
5 boards to adopt reasonable procedures relative to public comment at school board
6 meetings, subject to some limitations; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 42:5.1 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

9 §5.1. School board meetings; public comment

10 A. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, each school board subject
11 to the provisions of this Chapter, ~~except as provided in Subsection B of this Section,~~
12 shall allow public comment at any meeting of the school board prior to taking any
13 vote. The comment period shall be for each agenda item and shall precede each
14 agenda item. ~~A comment period for all comments at the beginning of a meeting shall~~
15 ~~not suffice as a comment period.~~

16 B. A school board in a parish containing a municipality with a population of
17 four hundred thousand or more according to the latest federal decennial census, at
18 any meeting of the school board, shall provide an opportunity for public comment
19 subject to reasonable rules, regulations, and restrictions as adopted by the school
20 board.

1 C. For purposes of this Section, a comment period for all comments at the
2 beginning of a meeting shall not suffice to meet the requirements of Subsection A
3 or Subsection B of this Section.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____