

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1810 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY HANBIDGE, HILL-EVANS, MADDEN, ROZZI, KAZEEM,
OTTEN, DALEY AND GREEN, NOVEMBER 2, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, NOVEMBER 2, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 65 (Public Officers) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in open meetings, further providing
3 for definitions and for public participation.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Section 703 of Title 65 of the Pennsylvania
7 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a definition to read:
8 § 703. Definitions.

9 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
10 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
11 context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 * * *

13 "Person of interest." Any of the following:

14 (1) A resident of an adjoining political subdivision or
15 of an authority created by a political subdivision that will
16 be affected by any of the following that are or may be before
17 a board or council prior to taking official action:

18 (i) A matter of concern.

1 (ii) An official action.

2 (iii) Deliberation.

3 (2) A local official, Senator or Representative whose
4 district encompasses a political subdivision that will be
5 affected by any of the following that are or may be before a
6 board or council prior to taking official action:

7 (i) A matter of concern.

8 (ii) An official action.

9 (iii) Deliberation.

10 * * *

11 Section 2. Section 710.1(a) of Title 65 is amended to read:

12 § 710.1. Public participation.

13 (a) General rule.--Except as provided in subsection (d), the
14 board or council of a political subdivision or of an authority
15 created by a political subdivision shall provide a reasonable
16 opportunity at each advertised regular meeting and advertised
17 special meeting for one or more representatives of persons of
18 interest, residents of the political subdivision or of the
19 authority created by a political subdivision or for taxpayers of
20 the political subdivision or of the authority created by a
21 political subdivision or for both to comment on matters of
22 concern, official action or deliberation which are or may be
23 before the board or council prior to taking official action. The
24 board or council has the option to accept all public comment at
25 the beginning of the meeting. If the board or council determines
26 that there is not sufficient time at a meeting for one or more
27 representatives of persons of interest, residents of the
28 political subdivision or of the authority created by a political
29 subdivision or for taxpayers of the political subdivision or of
30 the authority created by a political subdivision or for both to

1 comment, the board or council may defer the comment period to
2 the next regular meeting or to a special meeting occurring in
3 advance of the next regular meeting.

4 * * *

5 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.