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Subject: VLCT ACTION ALERT - Open Meeting Law Changes effective July 1, 2014

VLCT ACTION ALERT

Open Meeting Law Changes effective July 1, 2014

The legislature significantly amended Vermont's Open Meeting Law this year. Changes include new requirements for posting meetings, creating and altering agendas, posting minutes onto a municipal website, and for entering into executive session. The amendments also include specific steps that must be taken when there is an allegation that a public body has violated the law. The VLCT Municipal Assistance Center has prepared a list of frequently asked questions about the law that explains the recent changes to the law along with information about existing requirements. The VLCT 2014 Open Meeting Law FAQs is available at www.vlct.org/assets/MAC/VLCT_Open_Meeting_Law_FAQs_June_2014.pdf.

Remember: the Open Meeting Law applies to **every** municipal selectboard, council, board of trustees, municipal commission, committee and subcommittee! Please take the time to review our [2014 Open Meeting Law FAQs](#).

There are certain actions which should be taken by every Vermont municipality before July 1, 2014, to comply with the law, including:

1. Designating locations in your municipality where notices and agendas for meetings will be posted (see #10 and #13 in the *2014 Open Meeting Law FAQs*); and
2. Preparing your municipality's website, if there is one, so that you will be ready to post agendas before meetings (see #10 in the *2014 Open Meeting Law FAQs*) and minutes five days after those meetings occur (see #14 in the *2014 Open Meeting Law FAQs*). Otherwise, you should de-activate the website to avoid violating this requirement.

MAC is scheduling regional trainings on how to comply with the changes to the Open Meeting Law and updating our Open Meeting Law poster and Model Rules of Procedure. We will notify members about workshop dates and when the new documents are available. For more information, please contact Abby Friedman at afriedman@vlct.org or 800-649-7915 ext. 1926.

The Open Meeting Law is found in 1 V.S.A. §§ 310-314. The amended sections of the law are found in the text of Act 143 (as signed by the Governor), which is archived at www.leg.state.vt.us/DOCS/2014/ACTS/ACT143.PDF.

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