

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 435

Introduced by Assembly Member Chang

February 19, 2015

An act to add Sections 12805.4 and 12812.4 to the Government Code, relating to state government.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 435, as introduced, Chang. California Environmental Protection Agency: Natural Resources Agency: Web casts of public meetings and workshops.

Existing law establishes the California Environmental Protection Agency and the Natural Resources Agency as agencies in the state government. Existing law, the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, generally requires that all meetings of a state body be open and public.

This bill would require that each department, board, and commission of the Natural Resources Agency and each department, board, and office of the California Environmental Protection Agency Web cast all public meetings and workshops, in a manner that enables listeners and viewers to ask questions and provide public comment by telephone or email commensurate with those attending the meeting or workshop. The bill would require the agencies to archive the recording of a Web cast for subsequent reasonable viewing by interested members of the public.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 12805.4 is added to the Government
2 Code, to read:

3 12805.4. (a) For purposes of this section, “Web cast” means
4 a media presentation distributed over the Internet using live
5 streaming media technology to distribute content to listeners and
6 viewers.

7 (b) Each department, board, and commission of the Natural
8 Resources Agency shall Web cast all public meetings and
9 workshops in a manner that enables listeners and viewers to ask
10 questions and provide public comment by telephone or email
11 commensurate with those persons attending the meeting or
12 workshop. The agency shall archive the recording of a Web cast
13 for subsequent reasonable viewing by interested members of the
14 public.

15 (c) The requirements of subdivision (b) do not apply to a
16 conservancy or the California Science Center. This subdivision
17 does not limit the authority of the agency to Web cast meetings or
18 workshops of a conservancy or the California Science Center.

19 SEC. 2. Section 12812.4 is added to the Government Code, to
20 read:

21 12812.4. (a) For purposes of this section, “Web cast” means
22 a media presentation distributed over the Internet using live
23 streaming media technology to distribute content to listeners and
24 viewers.

25 (b) Each department, board, and office of the California
26 Environmental Protection Agency shall Web cast all public
27 meetings and workshops in a manner that enables listeners and
28 viewers to ask questions and provide public comment by telephone
29 or email commensurate with those persons attending the meeting
30 or workshop. The agency shall archive the recording of a Web cast
31 for subsequent reasonable viewing by interested members of the
32 public.

33 (c) The deputy secretary for external affairs shall be responsible
34 for implementation of this section.

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