

Right to Know Advisory Committee
Legislative Subcommittee
DRAFT: Meetings in public

Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §401 is amended to read:

§401. Declaration of public policy; rules of construction

The Legislature finds and declares that public proceedings exist to aid in the conduct of the people's business. It is the intent of the Legislature that their actions be taken openly and that the records of their actions be open to public inspection and their deliberations be conducted openly. It is further the intent of the Legislature that clandestine meetings, conferences or meetings held on private property without proper notice and ample opportunity for attendance by the public not be used to defeat the purposes of this subchapter.

This subchapter shall be liberally construed and applied to promote its underlying purposes and policies as contained in the declaration of legislative intent.

Nothing in this subchapter prohibits communications of any kind between the members of a public body unless the communications are **used** to defeat the purposes of this subchapter.

SUMMARY

This bill further defines the intent of the Legislature by specifying that nothing in Title 1, chapter 13, subchapter 1, the freedom of access laws, prohibits communications of any kind between the members of a public body unless the communications are **used** to defeat the purposes of the freedom of access laws.