



March 2, 2021

Senate Community Affairs Committee
315 Knott Building
404 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Re: SB 972 Administrative Entity Communication Meetings

I write on behalf of the First Amendment Foundation to address Senate Bill 972, which will be heard by the Senate Community Affairs committee Wednesday, March 3, 2021.

Senate Bill 972 requires that certain legal or administrative entities, when meeting "virtually" through the use of communications media technology, must provide notice of the use of such technology, how the public can attend, and where communications media technology facilities are available. The bill, however, does not require notice of how interested members of the public can participate in the meeting, as required by section 286.0114(2), Florida Statutes.

We suggest adding language to ensure that members of the public have notice of how they can participate and comment upon decisions affecting their rights and their community – in real time. We would be happy to provide sample language if needed.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

With best regards,

FIRST AMENDMENT FOUNDATION

Pamela C. Marsh
President

cc: The Honorable Wilton Simpson, President, Florida Senate
Jim Baltzelle, Associated Press, Chair, First Amendment Foundation
Samuel Morley, General Counsel, Florida Press Association
Lisa Nellesen Savage, Chair, Florida Society of News Editors

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