

## HOUSE REPUBLICAN STAFF ANALYSIS

Bill:	House File 706 (HF 416)	House Committee:	<b>PASSED</b> February 26 (23-0)
Committee:	State Government	House Floor:	<b>PASSED</b> March 24 (95-0)
Floor Manager:	Rep. Smith	Senate Floor:	<b>PASSED</b> April 17 (34-13)
Date:	April 23, 2025	Governor:	
Staff:	Jason Covey (1-3626)		

### Open Meetings Training and Enforcement

- Increases fines for violations of Open Meeting laws and removal from office for a repeat offense.
- Requires all elected and appointed members of governmental bodies to complete an education course for Open Meeting and Public Information law compliance.

### Section by Section Analysis

#### Section 1 – Enforcement (Iowa Code 21.6(3)(a,d))

Increases maximum fines for violations of Open Meetings laws from \$500 to \$2,500.

Members who knowingly participated in a violation the max for damages increases from \$2,500 to \$12,500. The minimum raises from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

If a member is a repeat violator they will be removed from office.

#### Section 2 – Member education course required (Iowa Code 21.12)

NEW SECTION - Requires a public official to complete a training course between 1-2 hours in length on Open Meetings and Public Information laws within 90 days of their initial oath of office. Training may be provided by IPIB and IPIB approves training courses that are acceptable. IPIB will make sure at least one training course will be provided by IPIB offered at no cost. A certificate shall be provided for completion of the training and kept on file with the governmental body. This section does not apply to any entity, officer, or employee judicial or legislative branch or office of the Governor.

#### Section 3 - Board powers and duties (Iowa Code 23.6(8))

Conforming Code Change

#### Section 4 – Enforcement (Iowa Code 23.10(3)(b)(1))

Authorizes IPIB to assess fines for members who do not complete approved training.

### Amendment Analysis

#### H-1250 – Senate Amendment

Adds to the bill that information obtained by camera's operated by the legislative branch that monitor the property owned or leased by the state or employee identification card access systems for buildings owned or leased by the state and operated by the state are confidential and not subject to open records requests.