



Open Meetings Law

I. GUIDANCE

A. The Open Meetings Law

1. General Statute: Article 33C of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes mandates that hearings, deliberations, and actions of public bodies be conducted openly. The term "public body" as defined by law applies to the Council and all Council appointed advisory boards, commissions and committees. However, the law provides in G.S. 143-318.11 for public bodies to enter into closed sessions under the following circumstances:
 - a) To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions or initial employment of a public officer or employee.
 - b) To hear or investigate a complaint, charge or grievance by or against a public officer or employee.
 - c) To hear matters falling within the attorney-client privilege of the public body.
 - d) To discuss specific claims, judicial actions, and administrative procedures.
2. Note: Although the discussion of personnel matters may take place in closed session, any final action on appointment or dismissal of an employee must be taken in an open meeting. Also, the terms of any settlement of a "pending or potential judicial action or administrative proceeding" in which a public body is party must be disclosed. Disclosure is required even if the parties to the judicial action agree to keep the terms of the settlement confidential.

*North
Carolina
General
Statute,
Chapter
143, Article
33C*

II. PURPOSE

- A. The purpose of this document is to provide guidance on the Open Meetings Law (Article 33C of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes).

III. RELATED
INFORMATION

- A. G.S. 143-318.11
- B. Excerpt from Chapter 143, Article 33C – NC Open Meetings Statute
- C. [How to Schedule a Public Meeting](#) – A “How To” guide developed by Communications and Public Affairs.

