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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 3-14-09

SPONSOR SPAC LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Open Conference Committees SB 737/SPAC

ANALYST Ortiz

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB393

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SFC Substitute Bill

The Senate Public Affairs Committee substitute to SB737 amends open meetings for the state legislature to be open unless otherwise provided by joint house and senate rule. It also adds that reasonable notice of meetings shall be given to the public by the presiding officer of each house prior to the time the meeting is scheduled. In addition to personnel and adjudicatory matters being exempt from open meetings it adds to the exempt list, investigative, quasi-judicial proceedings relating to ethics and conduct or to a caucus of a political party. By the same token, it struck language that allowed general appropriation bill, bills, resolutions or other legislative matters not yet presented to either house from being exempt from open meetings. Finally, it defines meeting as a quorum of a standing committee or conference committee held for the purpose of taking action within the authority of the committee or body.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

House Bill 393 amends the Opens Meeting Act by requiring that (1) conference committees be open to the public and (2) reasonable advance notice is given to the public at the time the meeting is scheduled. The bill subjects this new requirement to modification by joint house and senate rules. It also creates a new exemption from public disclosure: “investigative or quasi-judicial proceedings relating to ethics and conduct or to a caucus of a political party.”

EO/mc