

**From:** London, Sarah [Sarah.London@state.vt.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 19, 2014 10:44 PM  
**To:** Condos, Jim  
**Subject:** embargoed

Jim, not yet for distribution but we will likely issue something like statement below tomorrow. I will let you know as soon as it is signed. I am meeting with him at 9:15 on many bills. (Any concerns/corrections re below, just let me know...)

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

Today I signed the first bill to make any significant changes to our Open Meetings law in 15 years. I am proud of the reforms we made to our Access to Public Records Act over the last few years, and I believe all Vermont's access-to-government laws can and should continue to be updated to allow greater transparency.

I sign this bill today in the interest of making overdue updates to our Open Meetings law and making enforcement of the law more accessible for Vermonters. I am pleased that those that have to sue to gain access to a public meeting can now have their legal costs paid for by the public body, similar to the public records act reforms I pushed for and signed into law three years ago. I know that many have expressed concerns that certain provisions of this bill will result in less transparency of our public bodies. In the event sections of this bill prove to deny Vermonters any of the access to public bodies that they enjoy today, I am committed to working with the Legislature, the Secretary of State's Office, and all advocates to address such provisions during the next legislative session.

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