

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## HB 1013

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C 179 L 15  
Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Authorizing regular meetings of county legislative authorities to be held at alternate locations within the county.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Appleton, Johnson, Hansen, Takko, Gregerson and Fey.

**House Committee on Local Government**  
**Senate Committee on Government Operations & Security**

**Background:**

Washington counties provide regional services to all residents within their jurisdiction, including administering elections and furnishing judicial services, and a broader array of services to residents in unincorporated areas.

County legislative authorities must hold regular meetings at the county seat to transact any business required or permitted by law. Although the term "regular meeting" is not defined in statutory provisions governing counties, the Municipal Research and Services Center defines "regular meeting" as one that is held according to a schedule adopted by the applicable public governing body.

The location requirements for special meetings are less restrictive and authorize county legislative authorities to hold special meetings (meetings that are not held according to an adopted schedule) at any location within the county if the agenda item or items are of unique interest or concern to the citizens of the area in the county in which the special meeting is to be held.

**Summary:**

County legislative authorities may hold regular meetings at alternate locations outside of the county seat, but within the county, if the legislative authority determines that holding a meeting at an alternate location would be in the interest of supporting greater citizen engagement in local government. This alternate location option may be exercised once per calendar quarter.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

At least 30 days before holding a regular meeting outside of the county seat, the county legislative authority must give notice of the meeting. At a minimum, the notice must be: (1) posted on the county's website; (2) published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county; and (3) sent via electronic mail (e-mail) to residents of the county who have chosen to receive notice by e-mail.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

House	80	17	
Senate	45	0	(Senate amended)
House	80	16	(House concurred)

**Effective:** July 24, 2015