HB 655 2026

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to public meetings; amending s. 286.011, F.S.; providing that specified entities may meet in private with their attorneys to discuss certain claims concerning private property rights; specifying what may be discussed during such closed meetings; requiring that such meetings be transcribed; providing that such transcripts become public records at specified times; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

## Section 1. Subsection (8) of section 286.011, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

286.011 Public meetings and records; public inspection; criminal and civil penalties.—

(8) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1), any board or commission of any state agency or authority or any agency or authority of any county, municipal corporation, or political subdivision, and the chief administrative or executive officer of the governmental entity, may meet in private with the entity's attorney during the 90-day notice period specified in s. 70.001(4) to discuss claims submitted in accordance with that subsection, and may meet in private with the entity's attorney to discuss pending litigation to which the entity is presently a

Page 1 of 3

HB 655 2026

party before a court or administrative agency, provided that the following conditions are met:

- (a) The entity's attorney shall advise the entity at a public meeting that he or she desires advice concerning the litigation or concerning a claim submitted in accordance with s. 70.001(4).
- (b) The subject matter of the meeting  $\underline{\text{must}}$  shall be confined to settlement negotiations or strategy sessions related to litigation expenditures or relating to a claim submitted in accordance with s. 70.001(4).
- (c) The entire session <u>must</u> shall be recorded by a certified court reporter. The reporter shall record the times of commencement and termination of the session, all discussion and proceedings, the names of all persons present at any time, and the names of all persons speaking. No portion of the session <u>may shall</u> be off the record. The court reporter's notes <u>must shall</u> be fully transcribed and filed with the entity's clerk within a reasonable time after the meeting.
- (d) The entity shall give reasonable public notice of the time and date of the attorney-client session and the names of persons who will be attending the session. The session <u>must shall</u> commence at an open meeting at which the persons chairing the meeting shall announce the commencement and estimated length of the attorney-client session and the names of the persons attending. At the conclusion of the attorney-client session, the

HB 655 2026

meeting  $\underline{\text{must}}$   $\underline{\text{shall}}$  be reopened, and the person chairing the meeting shall announce the termination of the session.

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- (e) The transcript <u>must</u> <u>shall</u> be made part of the public record upon conclusion of the litigation, upon settlement of a claim under s. 70.001, or upon the expiration of the statute of <u>limitations</u> for the claim arising under chapter 70 in the event that no litigation is filed and there is no settlement of a claim under s. 70.001.
  - Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

Page 3 of 3