

FOR THE RECORD

E-Newsletter

Jan/Feb 2012



Possible new legislation— SB 206 Public Meetings/Right to Speak:

Requires boards and commissions to provide members of the public a reasonable opportunity to speak on items of “significant interest to the public” that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the board or commission, subject to reasonable rules ensuring orderly conduct. Stipulates that resolutions, rules, or formal action won’t be binding if a commission or board fails to comply with the requirement. SB 206 also includes some limitations on the right to speak, stating that the right doesn’t apply to: official acts that are taken in emergency situations and compliance would cause an unreasonable delay in the ability to act; an official act involving nothing more than a ministerial act; or meetings at which the board or commission is acting in a quasi-judicial capacity with respect to the rights or interests of a person. Amends s. 286.011, F.S. Companion to HB 355. *Sen. Joe Negron (R-Palm City)*

In 2010 there was a Supreme Court ruling that individuals have a right to be seen, but not necessarily to be heard at public meetings. Update: on 1/23/2012 this bill passed 14—0. It created new FS 286.0114.

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The only place
where success
comes before
work is in a
dictionary.

[Vidal Sassoon](#)

Sunshine Review

[Sunshine Review](#) is a non-profit organization dedicated to state and local government transparency. The Sunshine Review wiki collects and shares transparency information and uses a "10-point Transparency Checklist" to evaluate the content of every state and more than 5,000 local government websites. Sunshine Review collaborates with individuals and organizations throughout America in the cause of an informed citizenry and an accountable government.



Brechner Report

Survey: Fla. gets “B” in Transparency

ARLINGTON, Va. – Florida scores a “B” in transparency, according to a study recently completed by the nonprofit Sunshine Review, an organization dedicated to state and local government transparency. Sunshine Review analyzes state and local government websites using a 10-point transparency checklist to determine whether state and local government websites are making information related to budgets, elected officials, open meetings laws and taxes, among other criteria, available to citizens on their websites.

Although the state’s official MyFlorida.com portal was praised for providing a current state budget along with the governor’s budget proposal for the next fiscal year, it was criticized for not providing information on state-paid lobbying, agency lobbying contracts or “comprehensive information” for making public records requests.

Source: The Miami Herald

- *Public Records Requests Administrative Regulation #44*, please [Click here](#).
- *Extensive Public Records Requests Policy—AR 20*, please [Click here](#).
- To find public records exemptions, please refer to the [2011 Florida Statutes](#)

Records Links

- [State Library & Archives of Florida Website](#)
- [Sharepoint \(City Clerk / Records Division\)](#)
- [2011 Florida Statutes](#)
- [Government-In-The-Sunshine Manual](#)



2012—A New Year! Great time to clean out your records. The State allows us to dispose of records that have met their retention and are no longer of use to us. It is always a good idea to do so. If you need help determining whether or not your records are eligible for destruction and what the procedure is to do so, please contact me and I’d be more than happy to help. Email or call me at the number/email listed below.



Have Questions?
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Records Management Mission Statement

To provide the citizens access to public records in a professional manner, to maintain the official files of the City of Cape Coral, and to provide research services for internal and external customers while complying with the retention schedules of the State of Florida.