

May 20, 2013

To: House Committee on Rules

Representative Chris Garrett, Chair

Re: HB 3513 Quorum Decisions OPPOSE

The League of Women Voters is a grassroots, non-partisan political organization that encourages informed citizen participation in government. One of the League's basic principles is the protection of the citizen's right to know, specifically through open meetings of governing bodies. With regard to HB 3513, we have concerns about some of the provisions in Section 1.

In the exclusions as part of Section 1, part (2) (b), we cite the following:

Under B, the fact gathering activities need clarification as to the extent and specifics of these activities. The public's ability to participate should be encouraged.

Under C, the on-site inspections of property and facilities, away from the normal meeting place of the governing body, need to be well noticed to the public. While specific decisions might not be made during such meetings, there are opportunities for private conversations with decision-makers not available to the public.

The League suggests that HB 3513 be amended so as to address the issues of the public presence. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

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