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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1-30-09
LAST UPDATED 2-8-09 **HB** 393/aHJC

SPONSOR Cervantes

SHORT TITLE Open Conference Committees **SB** _____

ANALYST Ortiz

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

No Responses Received From

Judicial Standards Commission (JSC)
 Attorney General's Office (AGO)
 Commission of Public Records (CPR)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HJC Amendment

The House Judiciary Committee's (HJC) amendment to House Bill 393 makes two minor technical changes that do not change the substance of the bill. The first change, by removing "daily calendars", provides that any publication will suffice as notice to the public. The second change requires that the presiding officer of each house provide public notice "prior to" instead of "at the time" the meeting is scheduled. This last change clarifies that notice must be given prior to the meeting taking place.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 393 amends the Opens Meeting Act by requiring that (1) conference committees be open to the public and (2) reasonable advance notice is given to the public at the time the meeting is scheduled. The bill subjects this new requirement to modification by joint house and senate rules.

The bill also creates a new exemption from public disclosure: "investigative or quasi-judicial proceedings relating to ethics and conduct or to a caucus of a political party."

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The bill provides for transparency in policy-making decisions.

EO/mt