

ON FEBRUARY 23, 1965 ...

The late Senator Ted Stevens—then, Representative Stevens—introduced House Bill 170, “An Act requiring that the meetings of agencies of the state and its subdivisions be open to the public with certain exceptions.”

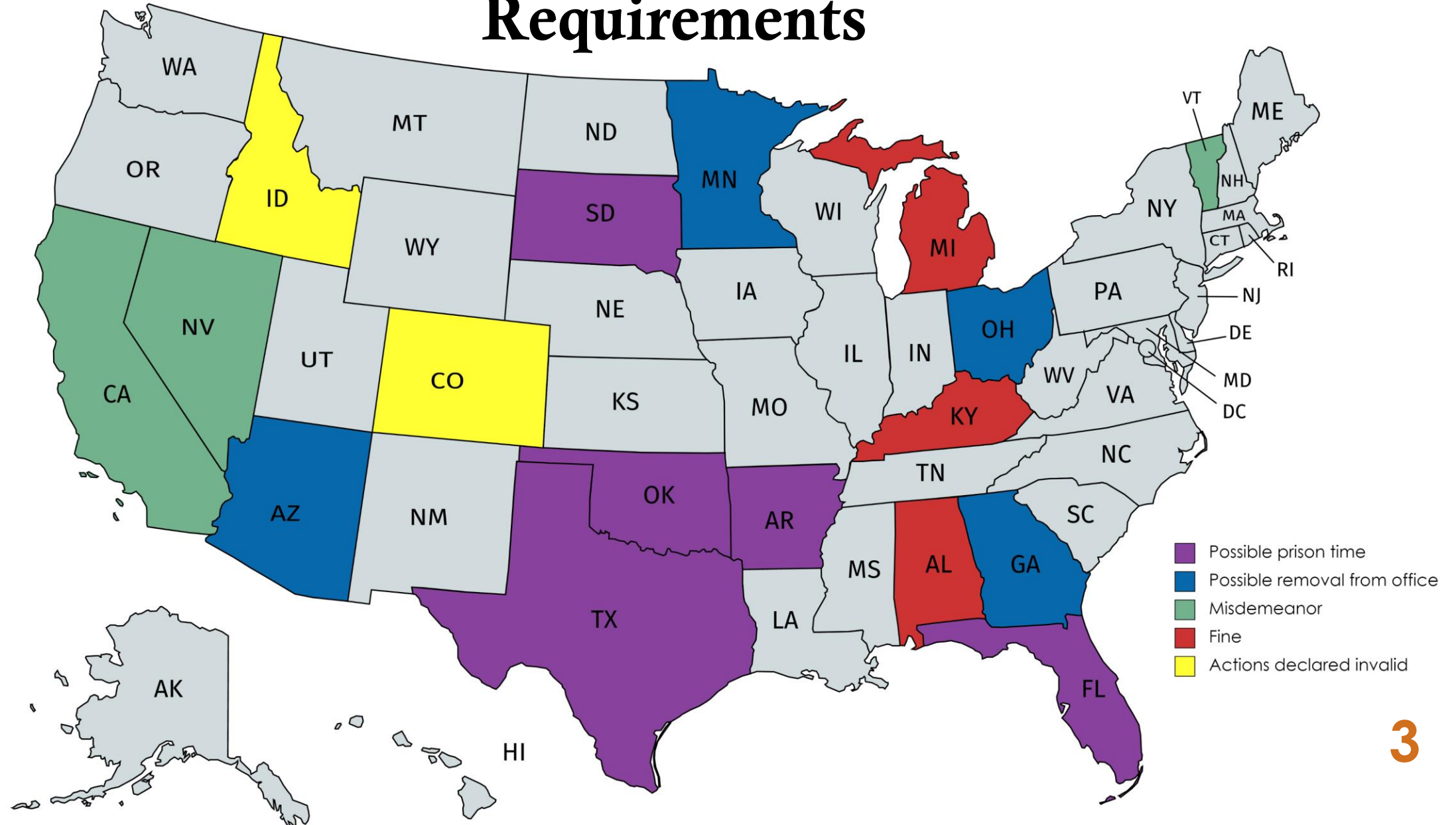
This is the bill that we know today as the Open Meetings Act.

But in earlier versions before passage, elected officials would face a fine of up to \$1,000 for violating the Act.

SENATE BILL 15

“An Act related to the Open Meetings Act; and establishing a civil penalty for violations of the open meeting requirements by members of governmental bodies.”

States with Penalties for Violating Open Meeting Requirements



INPUT FROM ALASKANS

“The Assembly used COVID as their excuse to bar the public from the meeting. In my opinion, a fine might discourage them from a repeat.” – Mary Barr, resident of District K

“I personally don’t understand how the Anchorage Assembly can unilaterally decide how the money is spent without the input from the people that they are appointed to represent.” – Rose Hubbard, resident of District H

“It was extremely frustrating that we were not allowed to go in ... It was a quick and easy way of shutting us out, not having to listen to us.” – Christine Hill, resident of District L