

Chart 5. Public Hearings and Informational Meetings

Current Tennessee Law	Proposed Changes	Other States'
Current law requires one public hearing prior to an annexation by ordinance or referendum.	Senate Bill 1381 by Bowling, House Bill 1319 by Van Huss would require three informational meetings be held in addition to the public hearing before a city could annex by ordinance. House Amendment 423 would have reduced the number of informational meetings to one.	Of the forty-nine states other than Tennessee, twenty-nine require at least one public hearing before land is annexed. Four states—Florida, Iowa, North Carolina, Texas—require at least two public hearings, but no state requires more than two. Only one state, North Carolina, requires a public information meeting in addition to a public hearing.

Other States' Laws on Public Hearings and Informational Meetings

State	Number of Informational Meetings Required	Number of Public Hearings Required
Alabama	0	0
Alaska	0	1
Arizona	0	1
Arkansas	0	0
California	0	1
Colorado	0	1
Connecticut	All territory in the state is incorporated.	
Delaware	0	1
Florida	0	2
Georgia	0	1
Hawaii	There are no cities in Hawaii.	
Idaho	0	1
Illinois	0	1
Indiana	0	1
Iowa	0	2
Kansas	0	1
Kentucky	0	1
Louisiana	0	1 if initiated by city
Maine	Not authorized by constitution or general law.	
Maryland	0	1
Massachusetts	Not authorized by constitution or general law.	
Michigan	0	0

State	Number of Informational Meetings Required	Number of Public Hearings Required
Minnesota	0	1
Mississippi	0	1
Missouri	0	1
Montana	0	0
Nebraska	0	1
Nevada	0	1
New Hampshire	Not authorized by constitution or general law.	
New Jersey	No unincorporated land in the state. The only annexation that takes place is between cities.	
New Mexico	0	1
New York	0	1
North Carolina	1	2
North Dakota	0	1
Ohio	0	1
Oklahoma	0	1
Oregon	0	1 if annexed for public safety
Pennsylvania	No unincorporated land in the state. The only annexation that takes place is between cities.	
Rhode Island	Municipal boundaries are locked in by statute.	
South Carolina	0	1
South Dakota	0	1
Tennessee	0	1
Texas	0	2
Utah	0	1
Vermont	0	1
Virginia	0	0
Washington	0	1
West Virginia	0	0
Wisconsin	0	1 if initiated by city
Wyoming	0	1