H   **1**

HOUSE BILL 1263

Short Title:	Keep Recordings of Closed Sessions. (Public)

Sponsors:	Representatives Mackey, K. Alexander (Primary Sponsors); Faison, Farmer-Butterfield, Luebke, Starnes, Weiss, and Wray.

Referred to:	Local Government II, if favorable, Judiciary I.

April 9, 2009

1   A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THAT LARGER COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES MAKE
3   RECORDINGS OF CLOSED SESSIONS.
4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
5   **SECTION 1.** G.S. 143-318.10(e) reads as rewritten:
6   "(e)   Every public body shall keep full and accurate minutes of all official meetings,
7 including any closed sessions held pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11. Such minutes may be in
8 written form or, at the option of the public body, may be in the form of sound or video and
9 sound recordings. When a public body meets in closed session, it shall keep a general account
10 of the closed session so that a person not in attendance would have a reasonable understanding
11 of what transpired. Such accounts may be a written narrative, or video or audio recordings.
12 Such minutes and accounts shall be public records within the meaning of the Public Records
13 Law, G.S. 132-1 et seq.; provided, however, that minutes or an account of a closed session
14 conducted in compliance with G.S. 143-318.11 may be withheld from public inspection so long
15 as public inspection would frustrate the purpose of a closed session. When a public body meets
16 in closed session, it shall make a sound or video and sound recording of that session, which
17 may be withheld from public inspection so long as public inspection would frustrate the
18 purpose of a closed session; provided, this sentence applies only to municipalities with a
19 population of 50,000 or more according to the most recent decennial federal census and to
20 counties with a population of 50,000 or more according to the most recent decennial federal
21 census."
22   **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2009.