

House Bill 493 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE) (AM)

By: Representatives Stovall of the 74th, Turner of the 21st, Cantrell of the 22nd, Setzler of the 35th, Rynders of the 152nd, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 50-14-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 meetings to be open to public, limitation on action to contest agency action, recording, notice
3 of time and place, access to minutes, and telecommunications conferences, so as to require
4 that public commentary be included in online videos; to provide for related matters; to repeal
5 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Code Section 50-14-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to meetings to be
9 open to public, limitation on action to contest agency action, recording, notice of time and
10 place, access to minutes, and telecommunications conferences, is amended by revising
11 subparagraph (e)(2)(B) as follows:

12 "(B)(i) The regular minutes of a meeting subject to this chapter shall be promptly
13 recorded and such records shall be open to public inspection once approved as official
14 by the agency or its committee, but in no case later than immediately following its
15 next regular meeting; provided, however, that nothing contained in this chapter shall
16 prohibit the earlier release of minutes, whether approved by the agency or not. Such
17 minutes shall, at a minimum, include the names of the members present at the
18 meeting, a description of each motion or other proposal made, the identity of the
19 persons making and seconding the motion or other proposal, and a record of all votes.
20 The name of each person voting for or against a proposal shall be recorded. It shall
21 be presumed that the action taken was approved by each person in attendance unless
22 the minutes reflect the name of the persons voting against the proposal or abstaining.

23 (ii) Except in the situation when a technical difficulty results in less than the entire
24 meeting being recorded or available for public viewing, any video of a meeting of a
25 county governing authority, municipal governing authority, or board of education
26 made available by such agency on its website for public viewing shall include the

27 entire meeting, except for any executive sessions, including, but not be limited to, any
28 public commentary portion of the meeting. Such video record shall be maintained as
29 provided in accordance with the records retention policy for such county governing
30 authority, municipal governing authority, or board of education."

31 **SECTION 2.**

32 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.