

The Senate Committee on State and Local Governmental Operations - General offered the following substitute to HB 516:

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 open to the public, limitation on action to contest agency action, recording, notice
3 of time and place, access to minutes, and teleconferences, so as to authorize county and
4 regional library boards and community service boards to conduct meetings via teleconference
5 under certain circumstances; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and
6 for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Code Section 50-14-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to meetings open
10 to the public, limitation on action to contest agency action, recording, notice of time and
11 place, access to minutes, and teleconferences, is amended by revising subsection (h) as
12 follows:

13 "(h)(1) The following bodies and committees thereof shall be authorized to conduct
14 meetings by teleconference, provided that any such meeting shall be considered to be
15 conducted in compliance with this chapter so long as the notice required by this chapter
16 is provided and, if fewer than a quorum of the members of a body or committee thereof

are physically present, means have been afforded for the public to have simultaneous access to the teleconference meeting:

(A) Development authorities created pursuant to or authorized by the provisions of Chapter 42 or Chapter 62 of Title 36, by or pursuant to Article IX, Section VI, Paragraph III of the Georgia Constitution, or by or pursuant to any amendment to the Constitution continued pursuant to the authority of Article XI, Section I, Paragraph IV of the Constitution;

(B) Community improvement districts created pursuant to the provisions of Article IX, Section VII of the Georgia Constitution;

(C) Hospital authorities created pursuant to Article 4 of Chapter 7 of Title 31; ~~and~~

(D) The board of trustees or other governing body of any large retirement system as such term is defined in subsection (a) of Code Section 47-20-84;

(E) The board of trustees of any county or regional public library created pursuant to Part 2 of Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 20; provided, however, that such meetings:

(i) Shall be held at a physical location with at least 50 percent of the board members physically present; and

(ii) Shall provide one or more methods for public viewing of such meetings and providing commentary at such meetings without being physically present at such meetings; and

(F) Community service boards created pursuant to Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 37; provided, however, that such meetings:

(i) Shall be held at a physical location with at least 50 percent of the board members physically present; and

(ii) Shall provide one or more methods for public viewing of such meetings and providing commentary at such meetings without being physically present at such meetings.

43 (2) The participation by teleconference of members of such bodies or committees thereof
44 means full participation in the same manner as if such members were physically present.
45 In the event such teleconference meeting is a public hearing, and if fewer than a quorum
46 of the members of a body or committee thereof are physically present, then members of
47 the public shall be afforded the means to participate fully in the same manner as if such
48 members of the public were physically present."

49 **SECTION 2.**

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