

Senate Bill 26

By: Senators Dolezal of the 27th, Ginn of the 47th, Goodman of the 8th, Walker III of the 20th, Hickman of the 4th and others

AS PASSED SENATE

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to state government,
2 so as to permit meetings and public hearings of local workforce development boards,
3 development authorities, and community improvement districts to be held by teleconference;
4 to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to state government, is amended
8 by revising subsection (f) of and by adding a new subsection to Code Section 50-14-1,
9 relating to meetings to be open to the public, limitation on action to contest agency action,
10 recording, notice of time and place, access to minutes, and teleconference, to read as follows:

11 "(f) An agency with state-wide jurisdiction or a committee of such an agency shall be
12 authorized to conduct meetings by teleconference; provided, however, that any such
13 meeting is conducted in compliance with this chapter. A local workforce development
14 board formed pursuant to the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (P.L.
15 113-128), as now in effect or as hereafter amended, or its committees or local elected

16 officials when performing duties relative to such board, shall qualify as an agency under
17 this subsection."

18 "(h)(1) The following bodies and committees thereof shall be authorized to conduct
19 meetings by teleconference, provided that any such meeting is conducted in compliance
20 with this chapter so long as the notice required by this chapter is provided and means are
21 afforded for the public to have simultaneous access to the teleconference meeting:

22 (A) Development authorities created pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 62 of
23 Title 36 or by or pursuant to Article IX, Section VI, Paragraph III of the Georgia
24 Constitution; and

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

27 (2) The participation by teleconference of members of such bodies or committees thereof
28 means full participation in the same manner as if such members were physically present.
29 In the event such teleconference meeting is a public hearing, members of the public must
30 be afforded the means to participate fully in the same manner as if such members of the
31 public were physically present."

32 **SECTION 2.**

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