

The House Committee on Governmental Affairs offers the following substitute to SB 413:

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 allow public hearings to be held by teleconference in emergency conditions; to
3 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

5 **SECTION 1.**

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

10 "(g) Under circumstances necessitated by emergency conditions involving public safety
11 or the preservation of property or public services, agencies or committees thereof not
12 otherwise permitted by subsection (f) of this Code section to conduct meetings by
13 teleconference may meet and may conduct any public hearings by means of teleconference
14 so long as the notice required by this chapter is provided and means are afforded for the
15 public to have simultaneous access to the teleconference meeting or public hearing;
16 provided, however, that nothing shall preclude an agency from making available a physical
17 location for the public to have simultaneous access to the teleconference meeting or
18 participating in the public hearing during such emergency conditions. On any other
19 occasion of the meeting of an agency or committee thereof, and so long as a quorum is
20 present in person, a member may participate by teleconference if necessary due to reasons
21 of health or absence from the jurisdiction so long as the other requirements of this chapter
22 are met. Absent emergency conditions or the written opinion of a physician or other health
23 professional that reasons of health prevent a member's physical presence, no member shall
24 participate by teleconference pursuant to this subsection more than twice in one calendar
25 year."

26

SECTION 2.

27 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.