

House Bill 981

By: Representative Bannister of the 77<sup>th</sup>, Parsons of the 40<sup>th</sup>, Johnson of the 35<sup>th</sup>, Coan of the 82<sup>nd</sup> and Dix of the 76<sup>th</sup>

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 which are to be open to the public; limitations on actions to contest an agency  
3 action; recording; notice of time and place of meetings; access to minutes; and  
4 telecommunications conferences, so as to provide that any agency shall be authorized to  
5 conduct meetings by telecommunications conference under certain conditions; to provide that  
6 any member of the agency, including those on active military duty, shall be entitled to  
7 participate and make decisions during such a telecommunications conference; to provide an  
8 effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

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

11 Code Section 50-14-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to meetings which  
12 are to be open to the public; limitations on actions to contest an agency action; recording;  
13 notice of time and place of meetings; access to minutes; and telecommunications  
14 conferences, is amended by striking subsection (f) and inserting in its place the following:  
15 "(f) An agency with state-wide jurisdiction shall be authorized to conduct meetings by  
16 telecommunications conference, provided that any such meeting is conducted in  
17 compliance with this chapter. In addition, any agency as defined in paragraph (1) of  
18 subsection (a) of this Code section shall be authorized to conduct meetings by  
19 telecommunications conference in the event that one or more of the agency's members is  
20 on active military duty at the time of such meeting, provided that any such meeting is  
21 conducted in compliance with this chapter. Any member of the agency, including those  
22 on active military duty, shall be entitled to participate and make decisions during such a  
23 telecommunications conference."

1 **SECTION 2.**

2 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law  
3 without such approval.

4 **SECTION 3.**

5 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.