

The House Committee on State Planning and Community Affairs - Local Legislation offers the following substitute to HB 517:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend an Act revising, superseding, and consolidating the laws relating to the governing
2 authority of DeKalb County, approved March 8, 1956 (Ga. L. 1956, p. 3237), as amended,
3 particularly by an Act establishing the form of government of DeKalb County, approved
4 April 9, 1981 (Ga. L. 1981, p. 4304), as amended, so as to require a public comment period
5 at every public meeting of the DeKalb County Commission or other entities created by the
6 Commission or by local Act relating to the governing authority of DeKalb County; to provide
7 for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 An Act revising, superseding, and consolidating the laws relating to the governing authority
11 of DeKalb County, approved March 8, 1956 (Ga. L. 1956, p. 3237), as amended, particularly
12 by an Act establishing the form of government of DeKalb County, approved April 9, 1981
13 (Ga. L. 1981, p. 4304), as amended, is amended by inserting in said amendatory Act a new
14 section to be designated Section 12.1 to read as follows:

15 "SECTION 12.1.

16 In every public meeting of the Commission or any committee, board, department, agency,
17 or other entity created by the Commission or by local Act of the General Assembly relating
18 to the governing authority of DeKalb County, a public comment period shall be held at or
19 near the beginning of the meeting to allow every individual present who wishes to speak
20 an opportunity to address the Commission or other entity for at least two minutes regarding
21 one or more issues or items before the Commission or other entity holding the meeting or
22 on the agenda for such meeting. No vote of the members of the Commission or other entity
23 holding the meeting shall precede the public comment period."

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SECTION 2.

2 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.