

Senate Bill 143

By: Senators Brown of the 26th, Rogers of the 21st, Staton of the 18th, Seay of the 34th,
Golden of the 8th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 14 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to open
2 and public meetings, so as to change certain provisions relating to meetings to be open to the
3 public, limitation on action to contest agency action, recording, notice of time and place,
4 access to minutes, and telecommunications conferences; to change certain provisions relating
5 to excluded proceedings; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
6 other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 14 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to open and public
10 meetings, is amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 50-14-1, relating to
11 meetings to be open to the public, limitation on action to contest agency action, recording,
12 notice of time and place, access to minutes, and telecommunications conferences, as follows:
13 "(b) Except as otherwise provided by law, all meetings as defined in subsection (a) of this
14 Code section shall be open to the public. Any resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or
15 other official action of an agency adopted, taken, or made at a meeting which is not open
16 to the public as required by this chapter shall not be binding. Any action contesting a
17 resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or other formal action of an agency based on an
18 alleged violation of this provision must be commenced within 90 days of the date such
19 contested action was taken, ~~provided;~~ provided, however, that for purposes of any action
20 contesting an alleged violation of this provision with respect to final official approval or
21 disapproval of the acquisition of real estate, the period within which such an action may
22 be brought shall not commence until minutes of the meeting at which the alleged violation
23 occurred have been made public; and provided, further, that any action under this chapter
24 contesting a zoning decision of a local governing authority shall be commenced within the
25 time allowed by law for appeal of such zoning decision."

26 **SECTION 2.**

27 Said chapter is further amended by revising paragraph (4) of Code Section 50-14-3, relating
28 to excluded proceedings, as follows:

29 "(4) Meetings when any agency is discussing the future acquisition of real estate, without
30 taking final official action to approve or disapprove such acquisition; except that such
31 meetings shall be subject to the requirements of this chapter for the giving of the notice
32 of such a meeting to the public and preparing the minutes of such a meeting; provided,
33 however, the disclosure of such portions of the minutes as would identify real estate to
34 be acquired may be delayed until such time as the acquisition of the real estate has been
35 completed, terminated, or abandoned or court proceedings with respect thereto initiated.
36 The exclusion provided by this paragraph shall not apply to the taking of final official
37 action to approve or disapprove such acquisition;"

38 **SECTION 3.**

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

41 **SECTION 4.**

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