

Senate Bill 249

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, McKoon of the 29th and Staton of the 18th

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 require that notice of meetings of government agencies be  
3 posted on agency websites; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for  
4 other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 SECTION 1.

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

11 "(d) Every agency shall prescribe the time, place, and dates of regular meetings of the  
12 agency. Such information shall be available to the general public and a notice containing  
13 such information shall be posted and maintained in a conspicuous place available to the  
14 public at the regular meeting place of the agency. Meetings shall be held in accordance  
15 with a regular schedule, but nothing in this subsection shall preclude an agency from  
16 canceling or postponing any regularly scheduled meeting. Whenever any meeting required  
17 to be open to the public is to be held at a time or place other than at the time and place  
18 prescribed for regular meetings, the agency shall give due notice thereof. 'Due notice' shall  
19 be the posting of a written notice for at least 24 hours at the place of regular meetings and  
20 on the website of the agency and giving of written or oral notice at least 24 hours in  
21 advance of the meeting to the legal organ in which notices of sheriff's sales are published  
22 in the county where regular meetings are held or at the option of the agency to a newspaper  
23 having a general circulation in said county at least equal to that of the legal organ;  
24 provided, however, that in counties where the legal organ is published less often than four  
25 times weekly 'due notice' shall be the posting of a written notice for at least 24 hours at the  
26 place of regular meetings and, upon written request from any local broadcast or print media

27 outlet whose place of business and physical facilities are located in the county, notice by  
28 telephone or facsimile to that requesting media outlet at least 24 hours in advance of the  
29 called meeting. When special circumstances occur and are so declared by an agency, that  
30 agency may hold a meeting with less than 24 hours' notice upon giving such notice of the  
31 meeting and subjects expected to be considered at the meeting as is reasonable under the  
32 circumstances including notice to said county legal organ or a newspaper having a general  
33 circulation in the county at least equal to that of the legal organ, in which event the reason  
34 for holding the meeting within 24 hours and the nature of the notice shall be recorded in  
35 the minutes. Whenever notice is given to a legal organ or other newspaper, that publication  
36 shall immediately make the information available upon inquiry to any member of the  
37 public. Any oral notice required or permitted by this subsection may be given by  
38 telephone."

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**SECTION 2.**

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