

The Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee offered the following substitute to SB 249:

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 revise the manner of giving notice of meetings of government
3 agencies; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

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

9
10 "(d) Every agency shall prescribe the time, place, and dates of regular meetings of the
11 agency. Such information shall be available to the general public and a notice containing
12 such information shall be posted and maintained in a conspicuous place available to the
13 public at the regular meeting place of the agency. Meetings shall be held in accordance
14 with a regular schedule, but nothing in this subsection shall preclude an agency from
15 canceling or postponing any regularly scheduled meeting. Whenever any meeting required
16 to be open to the public is to be held at a time or place other than at the time and place
17 prescribed for regular meetings, the agency shall give due notice thereof. 'Due notice' shall
18 be the posting of a written notice for at least 24 hours at the place of regular meetings and
19 at the main office of the agency, posting such notice on the agency's website, if any, and
20 giving of written or oral notice at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to the legal
21 organ in which notices of sheriff's sales are published in the county where regular meetings
22 are held or at the option of the agency to a newspaper having a general circulation in said
23 county at least equal to that of the legal organ; provided, however, that the agency shall not
24 be required to publish such notice in such legal organ or newspaper of general circulation
25 and provided, however further, that in counties where the legal organ is published less
26 often than four times weekly 'due notice' shall be the posting of a written notice for at least

27 24 hours at the place of regular meetings and at the main office of the agency, posting such
28 notice on the agency's website, if any, and, upon written request from any local broadcast
29 or print media outlet whose place of business and physical facilities are located in the
30 county, notice by telephone or facsimile to that requesting media outlet at least 24 hours
31 in advance of the called meeting. When special circumstances occur and are so declared
32 by an agency, that agency may hold a meeting with less than 24 hours' notice upon giving
33 such notice of the meeting and subjects expected to be considered at the meeting as is
34 reasonable under the circumstances including notice to said county legal organ or a
35 newspaper having a general circulation in the county at least equal to that of the legal
36 organ, in which event the reason for holding the meeting within 24 hours and the nature of
37 the notice shall be recorded in the minutes; provided, however, that the agency shall not
38 be required to publish such notice in such legal organ or newspaper of general circulation.
39 Whenever notice is given to a legal organ or other newspaper, that publication shall
40 immediately make the information available upon inquiry to any member of the public.
41 Any oral notice required or permitted by this subsection may be given by telephone."

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SECTION 2.

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