

House Bill 876 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Harbin of the 122nd, Parrish of the 158th, Powell of the 32nd, Smyre of the 135th, Channell of the 120th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 expense allowance and travel cost reimbursement for members of certain boards and
3 commissions, so as to provide that certain boards and commissions shall receive the same
4 per diem as members of the General Assembly; to provide that daily expense allowances are
5 authorized only if the member of the board or commission is physically present at the
6 meeting of the board or commission; to amend Code Section 50-1-5 of the Official Code of
7 Georgia Annotated, relating to meetings by teleconference or other similar means, so as to
8 provide that members of boards, bodies, committees, or commissions of state government
9 that participate in meeting by teleconference or other similar means and are not physically
10 present at the meeting of the board, body, committee, or commission shall not be entitled to
11 daily expense allowances for such meeting; to provide for related matters; to repeal
12 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

14 **SECTION 1.**

15 Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to expense
16 allowance and travel cost reimbursement for members of certain boards and commissions,
17 is amended by revising subsection (b) and by adding two new subsections to read as follows:

18 "(b) ~~Whenever~~ With the exception of the State Personnel Board, the State Transportation
19 Board, the Veterans Service Board, the Board of Natural Resources, and the State Board
20 of Education, whenever this Code section or any other law of this state provides that
21 members of any board, commission, or other body shall receive the same daily expense
22 allowance as members of the General Assembly, whether by specific reference to this Code
23 section or any other law or by a more general reference, the members of such board,
24 commission, or other body shall receive a daily expense allowance of \$105.00. Such
25 \$105.00 amount shall apply for members of such boards, commissions, and other bodies,
26 regardless of whether the amount actually received by members of the General Assembly

27 under Code Section 28-1-8 is more or less than \$105.00. The provisions of this subsection
 28 shall control over any conflicting provisions of any other earlier enacted law.

29 (c) The daily expense allowance provided for in subsection (a) of this Code section for
 30 members of the State Transportation Board, the Veterans Service Board, the Board of
 31 Natural Resources, and the State Board of Education shall be the same daily expense
 32 allowance as members of the General Assembly actually receive under Code
 33 Section 28-1-8. Members of the State Personnel Board shall also receive the same daily
 34 expense allowance as members of the General Assembly actually receive under Code
 35 Section 28-1-8.

36 (d) A member of a board, committee, commission, or other body subject to this Code
 37 section who does not physically attend the meeting of the board, committee, commission,
 38 or other body but participates in such meeting by telephone conference call, two-way
 39 interactive closed circuit television or satellite television signal, or any other similar
 40 method which allows each member of the board or body participating in the meeting to
 41 hear and speak to each other member participating in the meeting shall not be eligible to
 42 receive the daily expense allowance under this Code section. Daily expense allowances
 43 under this Code section shall be allowed only for members who are physically present at
 44 meetings of their respective boards, committees, commissions, or other bodies subject to
 45 this Code section."

46 **SECTION 2.**

47 Code Section 50-1-5 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to meetings by
 48 teleconference or other similar means, is amended by adding a new subsection to read as
 49 follows:

50 "(d) A member of a board, body, committee, or commission who does not physically
 51 attend the meeting of the board, body, committee, or commission but participates in such
 52 meeting by telephone conference call, two-way interactive closed circuit television or
 53 satellite television signal, or any other similar method pursuant to this Code section shall
 54 not be eligible to receive a daily expense allowance or per diem for such meeting. Daily
 55 expense allowances and per diem shall be allowed only for members who are physically
 56 present at meetings of their respective boards, bodies, committees, or commissions."

57 **SECTION 3.**

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