

The House Committee on Rules offers the following substitute to SB 413:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to state government,
2 so as to allow public hearings to be held by teleconference in emergency conditions; to
3 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

5 SECTION 1.

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

10 "(g) Under circumstances necessitated by emergency conditions, as determined by the
11 agencies or committees thereof, involving public safety or the preservation of property or
12 public services, agencies or committees thereof not otherwise permitted by subsection (f)
13 of this Code section to conduct meetings by teleconference may meet and may conduct
14 any public hearings by means of teleconference so long as the notice required by this
15 chapter is provided and means are afforded for the public to have simultaneous access to
16 the teleconference meeting or public hearing; provided, however, that nothing shall
17 preclude an agency or committee thereof from making available a physical location for the
18 public to have simultaneous access to the teleconference meeting or participating in the
19 public hearing during such emergency conditions. On any other occasion of the meeting
20 of an agency or committee thereof, and so long as a quorum is present in person, a member
21 may participate by teleconference if necessary due to reasons of health or absence from the
22 jurisdiction so long as the other requirements of this chapter are met. Absent emergency
23 conditions or the written opinion of a physician or other health professional that reasons
24 of health prevent a member's physical presence, no member shall participate by
25 teleconference pursuant to this subsection more than twice in one calendar year."

