

House Bill 553

By: Representatives Gunter of the 8<sup>th</sup>, Reeves of the 34<sup>th</sup>, Efstoration of the 104<sup>th</sup>, Burchett of the 176<sup>th</sup>, Smith of the 18<sup>th</sup>, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 13 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 administrative procedure, so as to provide for participation in hearings by electronic  
3 communications; to provide for electronic filing of documents; to provide for electronic  
4 service; to provide for the electronic availability or transfer of the record; to provide for  
5 related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
6 purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 13 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to administrative  
10 procedure, is amended by revising paragraph (5) of Code Section 50-13-15, relating to rules  
11 of evidence in contested cases, official notice, and conducting hearings by utilizing remote  
12 telephonic communications, as follows:

13 "(5) Any hearing which is required or permitted hereunder may be conducted by utilizing  
14 remote ~~telephonic~~ electronic communications if the record reflects that all parties have  
15 consented to the conduct of the hearing by use of such communications and that such  
16 procedure will not jeopardize the rights of any party to the hearing. In the administrative

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17 law judge's discretion, one or more witnesses may participate by remote electronic  
18 communications."

19 **SECTION 2.**

20 Said chapter is further amended by adding three new paragraphs to subsection (a) of Code  
21 Section 50-13-41, relating to hearing procedures, powers of administrative law judge,  
22 issuance of decision, reviewing agency, and review of contested cases, as follows:

23 "(4) The Office of State Administrative Hearings may require the electronic filing of  
24 documents.

25 (5) Except where alternative means of service are required by law, the Office of State  
26 Administrative Hearings may serve any party electronically.

27 (6) The Office of State Administrative Hearings may make available or transfer the  
28 record of any hearing to any party electronically."

29 **SECTION 3.**

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

32 **SECTION 4.**

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