

Senate Bill 361

By: Senators Dolezal of the 27th, Ginn of the 47th, Robertson of the 29th, Kennedy of the 18th, Hickman of the 4th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 50-14-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 meetings open to the public, limitation on action to contest agency action, recording, notice
3 of time and place, access to minutes, and teleconferences, so as to increase the number of
4 authorized nonemergency teleconference meetings in which members of nonstatewide
5 agencies can participate each year; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws;
6 and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Code Section 50-14-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to meetings open
10 to the public, limitation on action to contest agency action, recording, notice of time and
11 place, access to minutes, and teleconferences, is amended by revising subsection (g) as
12 follows:

13 "(g)(1) As used in this paragraph, emergency conditions shall include declarations of
14 federal, state, or local states of emergency; provided, however, that no such declaration
15 shall be necessary for an agency as defined by subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) of

16 subsection (a) of this Code section to find that emergency conditions exist thereby
17 necessitating meeting by teleconference.

18 (2) Under circumstances necessitated by emergency conditions involving public safety
19 or the preservation of property or public services, agencies or committees thereof not
20 otherwise permitted by subsection (f) of this Code section to conduct meetings by
21 teleconference may meet by means of teleconference so long as the notice required by
22 this chapter is provided and means are afforded for the public to have simultaneous
23 access to the teleconference meeting. The participation by teleconference of members
24 of agencies or committees means full participation in the same manner as if such
25 members were physically present. In the event such teleconference meeting is a public
26 hearing, members of the public must be afforded the means to participate fully in the
27 same manner as if such members of the public were physically present.

28 (3) On any other occasion of the meeting of an agency or committee thereof, and so long
29 as a quorum is present in person, a member may participate by teleconference if
30 necessary due to reasons of health or absence from the jurisdiction so long as the other
31 requirements of this chapter are met. Absent emergency conditions or the written opinion
32 of a physician or other health professional that reasons of health prevent a member's
33 physical presence, no member shall participate by teleconference pursuant to this
34 subsection more than ~~twice~~ six times in one calendar year."

35 **SECTION 2.**

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