

House Bill 516

By: Representatives New of the 40th, Hawkins of the 27th, Ballard of the 147th, Scoggins of the 14th, Persinger of the 119th, 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 authorize county and
4 regional library boards to conduct meetings via teleconference; to provide for related matters;
5 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

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

12 "(h)(1) The following bodies and committees thereof shall be authorized to conduct
13 meetings by teleconference, provided that any such meeting shall be considered to be
14 conducted in compliance with this chapter so long as the notice required by this chapter
15 is provided and, if fewer than a quorum of the members of a body or committee thereof

16 are physically present, means have been afforded for the public to have simultaneous
17 access to the teleconference meeting:

18 (A) Development authorities created pursuant to or authorized by the provisions of
19 Chapter 42 or Chapter 62 of Title 36, by or pursuant to Article IX, Section VI,
20 Paragraph III of the Georgia Constitution, or by or pursuant to any amendment to the
21 Constitution continued pursuant to the authority of Article XI, Section I, Paragraph IV
22 of the Constitution;

23 (B) Community improvement districts created pursuant to the provisions of Article IX,
24 Section VII of the Georgia Constitution;

25 (C) Hospital authorities created pursuant to Article 4 of Chapter 7 of Title 31; ~~and~~

26 (D) The board of trustees or other governing body of any large retirement system as
27 such term is defined in subsection (a) of Code Section 47-20-84; and

28 (E) The board of trustees of any county or regional public library created pursuant to
29 Part 2 of Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 20.

30 (2) The participation by teleconference of members of such bodies or committees thereof
31 means full participation in the same manner as if such members were physically present.
32 In the event such teleconference meeting is a public hearing, and if fewer than a quorum
33 of the members of a body or committee thereof are physically present, then members of
34 the public shall be afforded the means to participate fully in the same manner as if such
35 members of the public were physically present."

36 **SECTION 2.**

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