

The House Committee on Governmental Affairs offers the following substitute to HB 883:

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 boards  
4 of health and community service boards to conduct meetings via teleconference; to provide  
5 for related matters; 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 adding a new subsection to  
11 read as follows:

12 “(h)(1) County boards of health established pursuant to Code Section 31-3-1 and  
13 community service boards established pursuant to Code Section 37-2-6 shall be  
14 authorized to conduct meetings by teleconference, provided that any such meeting shall  
15 be considered to be conducted in compliance with this chapter so long as the notice  
16 required by this chapter is provided and, if fewer than a quorum of the members of a

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17 board thereof are physically present, means have been afforded for the public to have  
18 simultaneous access to the teleconference meeting.

19 (2) The participation by teleconference of members of such boards thereof means full  
20 participation in the same manner as if such members were physically present. In the  
21 event such teleconference meeting is a public hearing, and if fewer than a quorum of the  
22 members of a body or committee thereof are physically present, then members of the  
23 public shall be afforded the means to participate fully in the same manner as if such  
24 members of the public were physically present."

25 **SECTION 2.**

26 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.