

SENATE BILL 596

By Gardenhire

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 7-86-314 and Title 8, Chapter 44, relative to members of boards of directors for emergency communications districts.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 7-86-314, is amended by deleting subsection (a) and substituting the following:

(a)

(1) Effective July 1, 2016, any member of the board of directors of an emergency communications district with four (4) consecutive unexcused absences or who fails to attend at least fifty percent (50%) of regularly scheduled meetings within any twelve-month period shall automatically be removed from the board.

(2) A member of the board of directors of an emergency communications district shall be excused from attendance at any meeting that occurs while the member is engaged in military or public safety professional service or training and the member shall not be subject to removal under this subsection (a) for any meetings missed during the time that the member was engaged in military or public safety professional service or training.

(3) The chair of the board of directors or acting chair shall notify the appointing authority in writing that a member has been removed and that a vacancy exists on the board. Upon the removal of a member pursuant to this subsection (a), a successor shall be appointed to serve the remainder of the term of the member being replaced.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 7-86-314, is further amended by deleting subsection (d).

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 8-44-108, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(d) Notwithstanding this chapter to the contrary, members of an emergency communications district board of directors may participate in meetings by any electronic means approved by such board. A board member who participates in a meeting electronically under this subsection (d) is present for purposes of creating a quorum and voting on matters presented to the board for consideration during the meeting to the same extent as a board member who is physically present at the meeting.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.