SENATE BILL NO. 2601

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-41-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT THE OPEN MEETINGS LAW SHALL APPLY TO TELECONFERENCE AND VIDEO MEETINGS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

SECTION 1. Section 25-41-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

25-41-3. For purposes of this chapter, the following words shall have the meaning ascribed herein, to wit:

(a) "Public body" means: (i) any executive or administrative board, commission, authority, council, department, agency, bureau or any other policymaking entity, or committee thereof, of the State of Mississippi, or any political subdivision or municipal corporation of the state, whether such entity be created by statute or executive order, which is supported wholly or in part by public funds or expends public funds, and (ii) any standing, interim or special committee of the Mississippi Legislature. There shall be exempted from the provisions of this chapter the judiciary, including all jury deliberations, public and private hospital staffs, public and private hospital boards and committees thereof, law enforcement officials, the military, the State Probation and Parole Board, the Workers' Compensation Commission, legislative subcommittees and legislative conference committees, the arbitration council established in Section 69-3-19 and license revocation, suspension and disciplinary proceedings held by the Mississippi State Board of Dental Examiners.

(b) "Meeting" means an assemblage of members of a public body at which official acts may be taken upon a matter over
which the public body has supervision, control, jurisdiction or advisory power and "meeting" also means any such assemblage through the use of video or teleconference devices.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after July 1, 2002.