

By: Senator(s) Norwood

To: Accountability,  
Efficiency, Transparency

SENATE BILL NO. 2371

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-41-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 REVISE THE DEFINITION OF PUBLIC BODY; TO CREATE NEW SECTION  
3 25-41-4, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE PUBLIC BODIES TO  
4 CREATE AND MAINTAIN A PUBLIC NOTICE LIST; TO AMEND SECTION  
5 25-41-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE NOTICE BY EMAIL OF  
6 MEETING TIMES TO THOSE ON THE PUBLIC NOTICE LIST; TO AMEND SECTION  
7 25-41-11, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REVISE REQUIREMENTS  
8 RELATING TO THE AVAILABILITY OF MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF PUBLIC  
9 BODIES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

13 25-41-3. For purposes of this chapter, the following words  
14 shall have the meaning ascribed herein, to wit:

15 (a) "Public body" means any executive or administrative  
16 board, commission, authority, council, department, agency, bureau  
17 or any other policymaking entity, or committee thereof, of the  
18 State of Mississippi, or any political subdivision or municipal  
19 corporation of the state, whether the entity be created by statute  
20 or executive order, and whether elected by the voters of  
21 Mississippi or not, or appointed by any elected public official or



officials or other public body or bodies, which is supported  
wholly or in part by public funds or expends public funds, and any  
standing, interim or special committee of the Mississippi  
Legislature. The term "public body" includes the governing board  
of a charter school authorized by the Mississippi Charter School  
Authorizer Board and the board of trustees of a community hospital  
as defined in Section 41-13-10 and, without limitation, a  
municipality, county, the state, a school district, a levee  
district, community and junior colleges, university officials, and  
all committees and subcommittees, including advisory or  
professional committees related to any public entity that  
discusses and recommends or votes on any public issue. The term  
"public body" includes the Mississippi Lottery Corporation. There  
shall be exempted from the provisions of this chapter:

- (i) The judiciary, including all jury  
deliberations;
- (ii) Law enforcement officials;
- (iii) The military;
- (iv) The State Probation and Parole Board;
- (v) The Workers' Compensation Commission;
- (vi) Legislative subcommittees and legislative  
conference committees;
- (vii) The arbitration council established in  
Section 69-3-19;



(viii) License revocation, suspension and disciplinary proceedings held by the Mississippi State Board of Dental Examiners; and

(ix) Hearings and meetings of the Board of Tax Appeals and of the hearing officers and the board of review of the Department of Revenue as provided in Section 27-77-15.

(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, including an assemblage through the use of video or teleconference devices that conforms to Section 25-41-5.

**SECTION 2.** The following shall be codified as Section 25-41-4, Mississippi Code of 1972:

25-41-4. (1) (a) All public bodies must create and maintain a public notice list of email addresses of Mississippi residents who ask to be notified of the day, date, time and place of all regular and special meetings of the body. The public body must email to all addresses on the public notice list notice of the day, date, time and place of all regular and special meetings of the body, and an agenda reflecting the topics that will be discussed, not less than seventy-two (72) hours before the convening of each meeting or within one (1) business day of the time the meeting is set, whichever is earlier.

(b) All public bodies must create and maintain a members and key staff list of the names, area or entity



71 represented, and email addresses of the members, and the names and  
72 email addresses of the key staff of the body. The list must be  
73 maintained on the webpage of the appointing body, or be accessible  
74 by a link to the list clearly visible near the top of the webpage.

75 **SECTION 3.** Section 25-41-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
76 amended as follows:

77 25-41-5. (1) All official meetings of any public body,  
78 unless otherwise provided in this chapter or in the Constitutions  
79 of the United States of America or the State of Mississippi, are  
80 declared to be public meetings and shall be open to the public at  
81 all times unless declared an executive session as provided in  
82 Section 25-41-7.

83 (2) A public body may conduct any meeting through  
84 teleconference or video means. A quorum of a public body as  
85 prescribed by law may be at different locations for the purpose of  
86 conducting a meeting through teleconference or video means  
87 provided that the equipment used is located at the place where the  
88 public body normally meets or at a public location specified in  
89 any notice of a special meeting, and provided that the equipment  
90 allows all members of the public body and members of the public  
91 who attend the meeting to hear the deliberations of the public  
92 body.

93 (3) An agenda and materials that will be distributed to  
94 members of the public body and that have been made available to  
95 the staff of the public body in sufficient time for duplication



and forwarding to the members of the public body shall be made available to the public at the time of the meeting and also by compliance with Section 25-41-4. Votes taken during any meeting conducted through teleconference or video means shall be taken in a manner that is clearly audible or visible to all members of the public body and to members of the public present at the public location.

(4) The public body must also include an email address or phone number at which to contact staff to be added to the public notice list on its webpage.

**SECTION 4.** Section 25-41-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

25-41-11. (1) Minutes shall be kept of all meetings of a public body, whether in open or executive session, showing the members present and absent; the date, time and place of the meeting; an accurate recording of any final actions taken at such meeting; and a record, by individual member, of any votes taken; and any other information that the public body requests be included or reflected in the minutes. The minutes shall be recorded within \* \* \* forty-eight (48) hours after recess or adjournment \* \* \*, shall be open to public inspection during regular business hours, and shall be emailed to all the addresses on the public notice list and posted on the webpage within forty-eight (48) hours.



120           (2) Minutes of a meeting conducted by teleconference or  
121 video means shall comply with the requirements of Section 25-41-5.

122           (3) Minutes of legislative committee meetings shall consist  
123 of a written record of attendance and final actions taken at such  
124 meetings.

125           **SECTION 5.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
126 and after July 1, 2025.

