

By: Senator(s) Boyd

To: Accountability,
Efficiency, Transparency;
Judiciary, Division A

SENATE BILL NO. 2087

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-41-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REQUIRE ALL OFFICIAL MEETINGS OF ANY PUBLIC BODY, EXCEPT FOR
3 EXECUTIVE SESSIONS, TO BE BROADCAST VIA VIDEO LIVESTREAMING
4 APPLICATIONS ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF EACH
5 RESPECTIVE AGENCY, TO REQUIRE THAT INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN
6 ALL PUBLIC NOTICES, TO REQUIRE THAT INFORMATION TO BE TRANSMITTED
7 TO THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE WHICH SHALL MAINTAIN A WEBSITE
8 LINK TO EACH AGENCY'S LIVESTREAMING APPLICATION, AND TO PROVIDE
9 THAT ANY ACTION TAKEN BY A PUBLIC BODY FAILING TO COMPLY WITH
10 LIVESTREAMING REQUIREMENTS IS VOID AND OF NO EFFECT; AND FOR
11 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

13 **SECTION 1.** Section 25-41-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
14 amended as follows:

15 25-41-5. (1) All official meetings of any public body,
16 unless otherwise provided in this chapter or in the Constitutions
17 of the United States of America or the State of Mississippi, are
18 declared to be public meetings and shall be open to the public at
19 all times unless declared an executive session as provided in
20 Section 25-41-7.

21 (2) A public body may conduct any meeting through
22 teleconference or video means. A quorum of a public body as



23 prescribed by law may be at different locations for the purpose of
24 conducting a meeting through teleconference or video means
25 provided that the equipment used is located at the place where the
26 public body normally meets or at a public location specified in
27 any notice of a special meeting, and provided that the equipment
28 allows all members of the public body and members of the public
29 who attend the meeting to hear the deliberations of the public
30 body.

31 (3) An agenda and materials that will be distributed to
32 members of the public body and that have been made available to
33 the staff of the public body in sufficient time for duplication
34 and forwarding to the members of the public body shall be made
35 available to the public at the time of the meeting. Votes taken
36 during any meeting conducted through teleconference or video means
37 shall be taken in a manner that is clearly audible or visible to
38 all members of the public body and to members of the public
39 present at the public location.

40 (4) In addition to the requirements of subsections (1), (2)
41 and (3) of this section, except for executive sessions and other
42 meetings expressly authorized by law to be closed, regular and
43 special meetings of all public bodies shall be broadcast via video
44 livestreaming applications on the front page of the official
45 website of each respective public body or on a designated
46 government channel. Public notices of said meetings shall also be
47 broadcast online in the same manner which shall contain the agenda



48 of matters to be discussed at the respective meeting in sufficient
49 detail as to put the public on notice as to what is to be
50 discussed, and the online link shall be included in all public
51 notices. Each public body shall transmit its online streaming
52 link to the Office of Secretary of State which shall maintain a
53 comprehensive list of website streaming links of all public bodies
54 for public use. Any action of a public body taken at a meeting is
55 void and of no effect if the public body fails to comply with the
56 public notice of the agenda matter to be discussed or fails to
57 comply with the livestreaming broadcasting requirement pursuant to
58 this subsection (4).

59 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
60 and after July 1, 2022.

