

By: Senator(s) Boyd

To: Accountability,
Efficiency, Transparency

SENATE BILL NO. 2294

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-41-5, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REQUIRE OFFICIAL MEETINGS OF CERTAIN PUBLIC BODIES, WITH
3 EXCEPTIONS, TO BE BROADCAST VIA VIDEO LIVESTREAMING APPLICATIONS
4 ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF EACH RESPECTIVE
5 AGENCY, TO REQUIRE INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN ALL PUBLIC
6 NOTICES, AND TO PROVIDE THAT ANY ACTION TAKEN BY SUCH A PUBLIC
7 BODY FAILING TO COMPLY WITH LIVESTREAMING REQUIREMENTS IS VOID AND
8 OF NO EFFECT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

12 25-41-5. (1) All official meetings of any public body,
13 unless otherwise provided in this chapter or in the Constitutions
14 of the United States of America or the State of Mississippi, are
15 declared to be public meetings and shall be open to the public at
16 all times unless declared an executive session as provided in
17 Section 25-41-7.

18 (2) A public body may conduct any meeting through
19 teleconference or video means. A quorum of a public body as
20 prescribed by law may be at different locations for the purpose of
21 conducting a meeting through teleconference or video means



22 provided that the equipment used is located at the place where the
23 public body normally meets or at a public location specified in
24 any notice of a special meeting, and provided that the equipment
25 allows all members of the public body and members of the public
26 who attend the meeting to hear the deliberations of the public
27 body.

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

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



47 online link shall be included in all public notices. Each public
48 body shall transmit its online streaming link to the Office of
49 Secretary of State which shall maintain a comprehensive list of
50 website streaming links of all public bodies for public use. Any
51 action of a public body taken at a meeting is void and of no
52 effect if the public body fails to comply with the public notice
53 of the agenda to be discussed or fails to comply with the
54 livestreaming broadcasting requirement pursuant to this subsection
55 (4). This subsection (4) shall be applicable to a political
56 subdivision or municipal corporation of the state or any of the
57 administrative units of a political subdivision or municipal
58 corporation. This subsection (4) shall not apply to the
59 Legislature or any of its component units, the judiciary or any of
60 its component units.

61 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
62 and after July 1, 2024.

