

By: Senator(s) Horhn

To: Government Structure

SENATE BILL NO. 2274

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 25-41-3, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 REVISE THE DEFINITION OF THE TERM "PUBLIC BODY"; TO INCLUDE RURAL  
3 WATER ASSOCIATIONS UNDER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT; AND FOR RELATED  
4 PURPOSES.

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

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

8 25-41-3. For purposes of this chapter, the following words  
9 shall have the meaning ascribed herein, to wit:

10 (a) "Public body" means any executive or administrative  
11 board, commission, authority, council, department, agency, bureau  
12 or any other policymaking entity, or committee thereof, of the  
13 State of Mississippi, or any political subdivision or municipal  
14 corporation of the state, whether the entity be created by statute  
15 or executive order, which is supported wholly or in part by public  
16 funds or expends public funds, and any standing, interim or  
17 special committee of the Mississippi Legislature as well as any  
18 rural water association, rural water system or any nonprofit,  
19 nonshare corporation chartered under the Mississippi Nonprofit

20 Corporation Act for the purpose of owning and operating rural  
21 waterworks. The term "public body" includes the governing board  
22 of a charter school authorized by the Mississippi Charter School  
23 Authorizer Board and the board of trustees of a community hospital  
24 as defined in Section 41-13-10. The term "public body" includes  
25 the Mississippi Lottery Corporation. There shall be exempted from  
26 the provisions of this chapter:

27 (i) The judiciary, including all jury  
28 deliberations;

29 (ii) Law enforcement officials;

30 (iii) The military;

31 (iv) The State Probation and Parole Board;

32 (v) The Workers' Compensation Commission;

33 (vi) Legislative subcommittees and legislative  
34 conference committees;

35 (vii) The arbitration council established in  
36 Section 69-3-19;

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

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

43 (b) "Meeting" means an assemblage of members of a  
44 public body at which official acts may be taken upon a matter over

45 which the public body has supervision, control, jurisdiction or  
46 advisory power, including an assemblage through the use of video  
47 or teleconference devices that conforms to Section 25-41-5.

48         **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
49 and after July 1, 2025.