

House Bill 493

By: Representatives Stovall of the 74th, Turner of the 21st, Cantrell of the 22nd, Setzler of the 35th, and Rynders of the 152nd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 50-14-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 meetings to be open to public, limitation on action to contest agency action, recording, notice
3 of time and place, access to minutes, and telecommunications conferences, so as to require
4 that public commentary be included in agency minutes and online videos; to repeal
5 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Code Section 50-14-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to meetings to be
9 open to public, limitation on action to contest agency action, recording, notice of time and
10 place, access to minutes, and telecommunications conferences, is amended by revising
11 subparagraph (e)(2)(B) as follows:

12 “(B)(i) The regular minutes of a meeting subject to this chapter shall be promptly
13 recorded and such records shall be open to public inspection once approved as official
14 by the agency or its committee, but in no case later than immediately following its
15 next regular meeting; provided, however, that nothing contained in this chapter shall
16 prohibit the earlier release of minutes, whether approved by the agency or not. Such
17 minutes shall, at a minimum, include the names of the members present at the
18 meeting, a description of any public comment period, including the name of every
19 person providing public comment and a brief description of the commentary provided
20 by each such person, a description of each motion or other proposal made, the identity
21 of the persons making and seconding the motion or other proposal, and a record of all
22 votes. The name of each person voting for or against a proposal shall be recorded.
23 It shall be presumed that the action taken was approved by each person in attendance
24 unless the minutes reflect the name of the persons voting against the proposal or
25 abstaining.

26 (ii) Any video of a meeting made available by an agency on its website for public
27 viewing shall include the entire meeting, except for any executive sessions, and shall
28 include, but not be limited to, any public commentary portion of the meeting."

29

SECTION 2.

30 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.