

1 SB102
2 145744-1
3 By Senators Orr and Pittman
4 RFD: Finance and Taxation General Fund
5 First Read: 05-FEB-13

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8 SYNOPSIS: This bill would allow members of
9 governmental bodies as defined in the Alabama Open
10 Meetings Act to participate in meetings and
11 deliberation via electronic communications under
12 certain circumstances.

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14 A BILL
15 TO BE ENTITLED
16 AN ACT

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18 Relating to the Alabama Open Meetings Act; to allow
19 members of governmental bodies to participate in meetings and
20 deliberation via electronic communications under certain
21 circumstances.

22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

23 Section 1. (a) Members of a governmental body as
24 defined in Section 36-25A-2, Code of Alabama 1975, may
25 participate in a meeting of that governmental body by means of
26 telephone conference, video conference, or other similar
27 communications equipment which allows all persons

1 participating in the meeting to hear each other at the same
2 time. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in
3 person at the meeting for all purposes.

4 (b) Every meeting shall have one physical location
5 available for persons wishing to be physically present and
6 that location shall be published in a manner consistent with
7 the Alabama Open Meetings Act.

8 (c) Utilization of electronic communication shall be
9 done in a manner that complies with the Alabama Open Meetings
10 Act and allowing members of the public to be present at the
11 physical location required by subsection (b) is sufficient for
12 compliance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act and the
13 electronic communication does not have to be otherwise made
14 available to members of the public.

15 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
16 first day of the third month following its passage and
17 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.