

HB293 INTRODUCED



1 HB293
2 AVG1SSQ-1
3 By Representatives Rafferty, Wilcox
4 RFD: Boards, Agencies and Commissions
5 First Read: 18-Feb-25



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SYNOPSIS:

The Alabama Open Meetings Act provides certain requirements for meetings of governmental bodies. Under the law, certain governmental bodies may meet by electronic participation subject to certain restrictions.

This bill would exempt the State Board of Genetic Counseling from the Alabama Open Meetings Act's restrictions governing electronic participation in meetings.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to State Board of Genetic Counseling; to amend Section 34-13A-3, Code of Alabama 1975, to authorize board members to participate in meetings via electronic equipment notwithstanding the restrictions in the Alabama Open Meetings Act.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 34-13A-3, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§34-13A-3



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29 (a) The State Board of Genetic Counseling is created to
30 implement and administer this chapter.

31 (b) The membership of the board shall consist of all of
32 the following:

33 (1) One individual appointed by the Department of
34 Genetics at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

35 (2) Four individuals who practice genetic counseling in
36 Alabama and who hold a master's degree or doctoral degree in
37 genetic counseling from an ACGC or ABMGG accredited training
38 program, or an equivalent program approved by the ACGC or the
39 ABMGG, appointed by the Governor.

40 (3) One physician appointed by the Medical Association
41 of the State of Alabama.

42 (4) One physician appointed by the State Board of
43 Medical Examiners.

44 (5) One physician who specializes in pediatric genetics
45 appointed by the Lieutenant Governor.

46 (6) One physician appointed by the Speaker of the House
47 of Representatives.

48 (c) Board members appointed by the Governor shall serve
49 for terms of two years and, upon the expiration of a term, may
50 continue to serve until replaced or reappointed. All other
51 board members shall serve until they are replaced by their
52 respective appointing authority.

53 (d) The board shall annually elect from its membership
54 a chair, a vice chair, and a secretary.

55 (e) The appointing authorities shall coordinate their
56 appointments to assure the board membership is inclusive and



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57 reflects the racial, gender, geographic, urban, rural, and
58 economic diversity of this state.

59 (f) Unless acting unreasonably or in bad faith, no
60 member of the board shall be civilly liable for acting within
61 the scope of his or her duties as a board member.

62 (g) Members of the board shall serve without
63 compensation but, to the extent funds are available, may
64 receive the same per diem and travel allowance as state
65 employees.

66 (h) ~~(1) Except as provided in subdivision (2)~~
67 Notwithstanding the Alabama Open Meetings Act, Chapter 25A of
68 Title 36, all members of the board may participate in ~~a~~
69 ~~regular~~ any meeting of the board by means of telephone
70 conference, video conference, or similar communications
71 equipment ~~pursuant to the Alabama Open Meetings Act, Chapter~~
72 ~~25A of Title 36.~~

73 ~~(2) Members of the board may only participate in a~~
74 ~~meeting of the board relating to a disciplinary action in~~
75 ~~person."~~

76 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
77 1, 2025.