

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2       An act relating to Monroe County; providing  
 3       definitions; authorizing a local advisory committee of  
 4       the School Board of Monroe County or the Board of  
 5       County Commissioners of Monroe County, or any  
 6       political subdivision thereof, to conduct public  
 7       meetings, hearings, and workshops by means of  
 8       communications media technology; authorizing the  
 9       adoption of rules; providing for notices of public  
 10      meetings, hearings, and workshops conducted by means  
 11      of communications media technology; providing  
 12      applicability and construction; providing an effective  
 13      date.

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 15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 17       Section 1. (1) As used in this act, the term:

18       (a) "Communications media technology" has the same meaning  
 19 as provided in s. 120.54(5)(b)2., Florida Statutes.

20       (b) "Local advisory committee" means a committee created  
 21 by general law, local ordinance, or resolution that provides  
 22 advice or recommendations to the School Board of Monroe County  
 23 or the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, or any  
 24 political subdivision thereof.

25       (2) The School Board of Monroe County or the Board of  
 26 County Commissioners of Monroe County, or any political

27 subdivision thereof, may authorize the public meetings,  
28 hearings, and workshops of any local advisory committee to be  
29 conducted by means of communications media technology if the  
30 board adopts uniform rules authorizing the use of communications  
31 media technology by any of its local advisory committees. The  
32 rules must provide procedures for conducting public meetings,  
33 hearings, and workshops, and for taking evidence, testimony, and  
34 argument at such public meetings, hearings, and workshops, in  
35 person and by means of communications media technology. The  
36 rules must provide that all evidence, testimony, and argument  
37 presented shall be afforded equal consideration, regardless of  
38 the method of communication.

39 (3) If a public meeting, hearing, or workshop of a local  
40 advisory committee is to be conducted by means of communications  
41 media technology, or if attendance may be provided by such  
42 means, the notice shall so state. The notice for public  
43 meetings, hearings, and workshops using communications media  
44 technology shall state how persons interested in attending may  
45 do so and shall name locations, if any, where communications  
46 media technology facilities will be available.

47 (4) This act does not limit a person's right to inspect  
48 public records under chapter 119, Florida Statutes. Limiting  
49 points of access to public meetings, hearings, and workshops  
50 subject of s. 286.011, Florida Statutes, to places not normally  
51 open to the public is presumed to violate the right of access of  
52 the public, and any official action taken under such

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53 circumstances is void. Other laws relating to public meetings,  
54 hearings, and workshops, including penal and remedial  
55 provisions, apply to public meetings, hearings, and workshops  
56 conducted by means of communications media technology, and shall  
57 be liberally construed in their application to such public  
58 meetings, hearings, and workshops.

59 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.