

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to public meetings and workshops for
 3 regional advisory committees; amending s. 286.011,
 4 F.S.; authorizing certain regional advisory committees
 5 to conduct public meetings and workshops by means of
 6 communications media technology; providing that an
 7 advisory committee member who participates in a
 8 meeting or workshop using such technology is deemed
 9 present; providing requirements for the communications
 10 media technology; providing notice requirements for
 11 such meetings and workshops; providing construction;
 12 providing an effective date.

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

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 16 Section 1. Subsection (9) is added to section 286.011,
 17 Florida Statutes, to read:

18 286.011 Public meetings and records; public inspection;
 19 criminal and civil penalties.—

20 (9) (a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a regional
 21 advisory committee that is composed of representatives from four
 22 or more counties, and whose geographic distance between the
 23 county seats of the two most distant counties is at least 100
 24 miles, may conduct public meetings and workshops by means of
 25 communications media technology as defined in s. 120.54(5)(b)2.

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26 An advisory committee member who participates in a meeting or
27 workshop by communications media technology is deemed to be
28 present at such meeting or workshop. The communications media
29 technology must allow for all persons attending such public
30 meeting or workshop to audibly communicate as if they were
31 physically present.

32 (b) The notice for such a meeting or workshop must state
33 whether it will be conducted using communications media
34 technology, how an interested person may participate, and the
35 location of any facilities where communications media technology
36 will be available.

37 (c) Any other laws applicable to public meetings or
38 workshops conducted by means of communications media technology
39 must be liberally construed in their application to meetings and
40 workshops conducted as provided in this subsection.

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