

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

H.B. 812
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH10393-ST-22

Short Title: Clarify Remote Meetings During Emergencies. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Arp.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO AMEND THE STATUTE AUTHORIZING THE USE OF REMOTE MEETINGS
3 DURING CERTAIN STATES OF EMERGENCY.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 SECTION 1. G.S. 166A-19.24 reads as rewritten:

6 "§ 166A-19.24. Remote meetings during certain declarations of emergency.

7 (a) Remote Meetings. – Notwithstanding any other provision of law, upon issuance of a
8 declaration of emergency under G.S. 166A-19.20, any public body within the emergency area
9 may conduct remote meetings in accordance with this section and Article 33C of Chapter 143 of
10 the General Statutes throughout the duration of that declaration of emergency. Compliance with
11 this statute establishes a presumption that a remote meeting is open to the public.

12 ...

13 (b1) If a public body has provided notice of an official meeting and one or more of the
14 members of the public body desire to participate remotely after the issuance of the notice, the
15 public body may amend the notice of the meeting to include the means whereby the public can
16 access the remote meeting as that remote meeting occurs. Such amended notice of remote
17 meeting shall comply with all of the following:

18 (1) Be issued no less than six hours prior to the official meeting.

19 (2) Be distributed in accordance with G.S. 143-318.12(b)(2) and (b)(3), as
20 applicable.

21 (3) Be posted in accordance with G.S. 143-318.12(e).

22 ...

23 (e) Public Hearings. – A public body may conduct any public hearing required or
24 authorized by law during a remote meeting, and take action thereon, provided the public body
25 allows for written comments on the subject of the public hearing to be submitted between
26 publication of any required notice and 24 hours ~~after~~ prior to the scheduled time for the beginning
27 of the public hearing.

28 ...

29 (i) ~~Definitions.~~ Definitions. – For purposes of this section, the following definitions
30 apply:

31 (1) Official meeting. – As defined in G.S. 143-318.10(d).

32 (2) Public body. – As defined in G.S. 143-318.10(b) and (c).

33 (3) Remote meeting. – An official meeting, or any part thereof, with between one
34 and all of the members of the public body participating by simultaneous
35 communication.



- 1 (4) Simultaneous communication. – Any communication by conference
2 telephone, conference video, or other electronic means."
3 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2021, and applies to remote
4 meetings held on or after that date.