

SCRep. 2844 Ways and Means on H.B. No. 3302

The purpose of this bill is allow the boards of public agencies to hold their meetings by videoconference, provided certain conditions are met which serve the intent of the "sunshine" law.

Specifically, this bill allows for meetings by videoconference if:

- (1) Both visual and audio interaction exists among all board members and the attendant public;
- (2) The public is given notice and opportunity to attend the meeting at any location in which a board member shall be present;
- (3) Quorum and voting requirements are determined by board members present at all locations;
- (4) The meeting terminates if both audio and visual communication cannot be maintained at all locations; and
- (5) The board adopted rules under the Administrative Procedure Act regarding videoconference meetings.

The present open meetings law, originally enacted in 1975, is still silent on the use of videoconference meetings. Your Committee believes that this measure is overdue and will allow the State to maintain pace with the information age. Your Committee finds that this measure will enhance a board's ability to be efficient and cost-effective and at the same time serve the interests of the sunshine law in safeguarding public scrutiny and participation.

Your Committee on Ways and Means is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 3302, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

Signed by all members of the Committee.