

1 HB153
2 215892-1
3 By Representative McCampbell
4 RFD: Education Policy
5 First Read: 18-JAN-22

SYNOPSIS: Existing law provides for annual and quarterly meetings of the Board of Trustees of The University of West Alabama.

This bill would authorize the board to conduct meetings of the board or of any committee of the board by telephone or video conference or similar means under certain conditions.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to the Board of Trustees of The University of West Alabama; to authorize the board to hold certain meetings by telephone or video conference, or by similar means under certain conditions.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 16-53-4, Code of Alabama, is amended to read as follows:

"§16-53-4.

1 "a) The Board of Trustees of The University of West
2 Alabama shall hold its regular annual meeting each year at the
3 institution on the first Monday in June, unless the board
4 shall in regular session determine to hold its meeting at some
5 other time and place. Thereafter, the board shall hold
6 quarterly meetings on the first Monday of each third month
7 after the annual meeting, unless the board shall in regular
8 session determine to hold its quarterly meeting at some other
9 time or place. Special meetings of the board may be assembled
10 by either one of the two methods outlined as follows:

11 "(1) Special meetings of the board may be called by
12 the Governor. In calling ~~such~~ special meetings, the Governor
13 shall mail a written notice to each trustee at least 10 days
14 in advance of the date of such meetings.

15 "(2) Upon the application in writing of any eight
16 members of the board, the Governor shall call a special
17 meeting, naming the time and place thereof and causing notices
18 to be issued in writing to the several members of the board.
19 ~~Such~~ Special meetings shall not be held on a date less than 10
20 days subsequent to the notice from the Governor.

21 "(b) (1) Members of the board may participate in a
22 meeting of the board or any committee of the board by
23 telephone conference, video conference, or similar
24 communications equipment by means of which all persons
25 participating in the meeting may hear each other at the same
26 time. Participation by these means shall constitute presence
27 in person at the meeting for all purposes. However, a majority

1 of a quorum of the members of the board, or, in the event of a
2 meeting of only the executive committee, a majority of a
3 quorum of the executive committee of the board shall be
4 physically present at the location noticed and called for the
5 meeting in order to conduct any business or deliberation.

6 "(2) Members of the board and any committees of the
7 board may not utilize electronic communications except as in
8 compliance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act. Except for
9 emergency meetings, notice of board meetings shall be provided
10 in accordance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act and telephone
11 or video conference or similar communications equipment shall
12 also allow members of the public the opportunity to
13 simultaneously listen to or observe the meetings.

14 "(c) The executive committee of the board and other
15 committees of the board shall hold meetings at ~~such~~ times and
16 on ~~such~~ dates as the board of trustees may provide."

17 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
18 first day of the third month following its passage and
19 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.