

HOUSE BILL 2496

By Hawk

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 8-44-108; Section 49-9-501 and Section 49-7-151, relative to higher education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-7-151, is amended by deleting the section and substituting instead the following:

(a) The board of trustees of the University of Tennessee, the advisory boards for the University of Tennessee institutions, the board of regents of the state university and community college system, and the state university boards are not subject to the requirement of § 8-44-108(b)(1) that a physical quorum be present at the location specified in the notice of the meeting as the location of the meeting in order to allow participation by electronic or other means of communication for the benefit of the public and the governing body in connection with any meeting authorized by law. To qualify for the exemption from the requirements of § 8-44-108(b)(1), pursuant to this subsection (a), an advisory board for a University of Tennessee institution must have had a physical quorum present at the location of a meeting at least one (1) time in the previous twelve (12) months.

(b) The board of trustees of the University of Tennessee, the advisory boards for the University of Tennessee institutions that qualify for the exemption from the requirement under § 8-44-108(b)(1), the board of regents of the state university and community college system, and the state university boards are not subject to the requirements of § 8-44-108(b)(2) or (3).

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 8-44-108(b)(3), is amended by deleting the last sentence and substituting instead the following:

This subdivision (b)(3) does not apply to the board of regents, the board of trustees of the University of Tennessee, the Tennessee higher education commission, a state university board, or an advisory board for a University of Tennessee system if the advisory board has had a physical quorum present at the location of the advisory board meeting at least one (1) time in the previous twelve (12) months.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-9-501, is amended by deleting subsections (c) and (d), and substituting instead the following:

(c) One (1) member must be a full-time faculty member of the respective University of Tennessee institution selected and appointed in a manner determined by the faculty senate or equivalent body of that respective institution, no later than May 31 of the year of appointment.

(d) One (1) member must be a student at the respective University of Tennessee institution selected and appointed in a manner determined by the respective advisory board, no later than May 31 of each year. Each student member must be enrolled full-time at the respective University of Tennessee institution throughout the term of appointment; provided, that this requirement does not require enrollment during any summer semester.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.