

Amendment No. _____

FILED
Date _____
Time _____
Clerk _____
Comm. Amdt. _____

Signature of Sponsor

AMEND Senate Bill No. 508

House Bill No. 509*

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and substituting instead the following:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 8-44-108(a), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

() "Utility governing body" means a board of directors, board of public utilities or other similar governing body of:

(A) Utility districts created pursuant to title 7, chapter 82, or a public or private act;

(B) Water, wastewater, natural gas, and energy authorities and multi-utility authorities created pursuant to title 68, chapter 221, part 6 or 13; title 7, chapter 36; or a public or private act; and

(C) Boards of public utilities and other similar municipal or county utility system created or operating pursuant to title 7, chapter 52; a public or private act; or a charter provision of a home rule municipality.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 8-44-108, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(1) A utility governing body may meet and conduct business virtually as prescribed in this subsection ().

(2) A utility governing body meeting virtually shall:

(A) Comply with the requirements of subsection (b) and subdivisions (c)(1)-(5) in the same manner and to the same extent as is required of municipal governing bodies under such provisions;



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(B) Ensure that the meeting is open and accessible to the public by providing real-time, live audio or video access to the public;

(C) Make a clear audio or video recording of the meeting to the public as soon as practicable following the meeting but not more than two (2) business days after the meeting;

(D) In the public notice required by § 8-44-103, provide information regarding how the public can obtain real-time, live access to the meeting; and

(E) Ensure that the members of the public are able to ascertain the identity of the person speaking by requiring each member of the utility governing body, staff member, and other persons participating by audio means only to identify themselves before speaking.

(3) Except as provided by this section, the requirements for quorum, meeting notice, voting, or any other requirements under this part are not altered.

(4) This subsection () does not prohibit some members of a utility governing board from participating in a meeting of the utility governing body in the same physical location while another member or members participate in the meeting electronically, so long as the utility governing body otherwise complies with the requirements of this subsection ().

(5) A utility governing body meeting virtually shall maintain any local requirements for public comment during meetings. Compliance with such requirements may be met by allowing timely and appropriately submitted written public comments to be read into the record by a member or staff of the utility governing body during the meeting.

(6) A member of a utility governing body who participates in a meeting virtually may receive any authorized meeting per diem or compensation for attending the meeting.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect July 1, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.