**South Carolina General Assembly**

126th Session, 2025-2026

**S. 77**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senators Hembree, Grooms and Zell

Companion/Similar bill(s): 3200

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Introduced in the Senate on January 14, 2025

Introduced in the House on February 25, 2025

Last Amended on February 19, 2025

Currently residing in the House Committee on **Education and Public Works**

Summary: Streaming of School Board Meetings

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

12/11/2024 Senate Prefiled

12/11/2024 Senate Referred to Committee on **Education**

1/14/2025 Senate Introduced and read first time ([Senate Journal‑page 62](h:\sj\20250114.docx))

1/14/2025 Senate Referred to Committee on **Education**

2/12/2025 Senate Committee report: Favorable with amendment **Education** ([Senate Journal‑page 5](h:\sj\20250212.docx))

2/19/2025 Senate Committee Amendment Adopted ([Senate Journal‑page 15](h:\sj\20250219.docx))

2/19/2025 Senate Amended ([Senate Journal‑page 15](h:\sj\20250219.docx))

2/19/2025 Senate Read second time ([Senate Journal‑page 15](h:\sj\20250219.docx))

2/19/2025 Senate Roll call Ayes-41 Nays-0 ([Senate Journal‑page 15](h:\sj\20250219.docx))

2/20/2025 Senate Read third time and sent to House ([Senate Journal‑page 15](h:\sj\20250220.docx))

2/25/2025 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 23](h:\hj\20250225.docx))

2/25/2025 House Referred to Committee on **Education and Public Works** ([House Journal‑page 23](h:\hj\20250225.docx))

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**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[12/11/2024](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/77_20241211.docx)

[02/12/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/77_20250212.docx)

[02/19/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/77_20250219.docx)

Indicates Matter Stricken

Indicates New Matter

Committee Amendment Adopted and Amended

February 19, 2025

S. 77

Introduced by Senators Hembree, Grooms and Zell

S. Printed 2/19/25--S.

Read the first time January 14, 2025

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A bill

TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 59-19-85 SO AS TO PROMOTE PUBLIC ACCESS TO SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS BY REQUIRING SCHOOL BOARDS TO ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT POLICIES THAT PROVIDE ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF SUCH MEETINGS AND TO PROVIDE RELATED REQUIREMENTS OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION; AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT MUST BE IMPLEMENTED BY JULY 1, 2025.

Amend Title To Conform

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Chapter 19, Title 59 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

Section 59‑19‑85. (A) Each public school governing body, including the governing bodies of charter schools and special schools, must make reasonable efforts to ensure the entirety of all meetings subject to the provisions of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act are open and accessible to the public and also available by means of live video and audio electronic access, hereafter referred to as livestream access, except during a lawful executive session.

(B) If a governing body cannot provide such livestream access to the public despite making reasonable efforts to restore livestream access during the meeting, it must make a clear audio and video recording of the meeting in its entirety available on its website as soon as practicable and in no more than seven days after the meeting.

(C) The State Board of Education shall adopt, and revise as necessary, a model livestream meeting policy suitable for governing bodies of public schools, including charter and special schools, to comply with provisions in this section. The policy must include, at a minimum:

(1) resources, recommendations, and best practices facilitating requirements for all portions of livestreamed meetings to be visible and audible in real time and subsequently posted on applicable websites no more than two business days of the meeting;

(2) suggested approaches for developing and implementing ability and expanding or improving existing livestream capacity;

(3) publicizing availability of livestreamed meetings;

(4) allowances for executive sessions;

(5) penalties for policy violations or noncompliance not to exceed one percent of state funds to the district, charter school, or special school, with escalating tiers based on frequency, duration, and severity; and

(6) the process for allowing a governing body with evidence of limited or no broadband access to request approval from the State Board of Education for up to an additional twelve months to comply with provisions in this section.

(D)(1) Each public school governing body, including the governing bodies of charter schools and special schools, shall adopt a local policy applicable to its meetings within three months after adoption of the model policy by the State Board of Education. A local policy must include, at a minimum, the State Board of Education model policy.

(2) If the State Board of Education adopts a revision to the model policy, then the public school governing body shall adopt and incorporate the revision into its local policy within three months after the adoption of the revision by the State Board of Education.

(3) A public school governing body only may adopt or revise its local policy at a regularly scheduled meeting, which must be successfully livestreamed.

(4) A public school governing body may not adopt or follow a livestream policy that prevents or impedes in-person participation by the public except as may be reasonable and necessary for the orderly transaction of its business.

(5) Within thirty days after adoption of a local policy or revision to the policy, a public school governing body shall submit a copy of the policy or revision to the State Superintendent of Education for State Board of Education approval.

(E) Funding by the State will be provided to those school districts without streaming capabilities as of the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year.

SECTION 2. The provisions of this act must be implemented by January 1, 2026.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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