By Senator Rodriguez

A bill to be entitled
An act relating to resilience-related advisory committees; amending s. 286.011, F.S.; authorizing specified resilience-related advisory committees to conduct public meetings and workshops by means of communications media technology; providing that use of such technology by a committee member constitutes that member’s presence at such meeting or workshop; requiring that such technology allow the public to audibly communicate; providing notice requirements for public meetings or workshops conducted by means of communications media technology; providing construction; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (9) is added to section 286.011, Florida Statutes, to read:

286.011 Public meetings and records; public inspection; criminal and civil penalties.—

(9)(a) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, resilience-related advisory committees whose membership is composed solely of representatives of four or more counties, when there is at least 200 miles of geographic distance between the county seats of the two most distant counties, may conduct public meetings and workshops by means of communications media technology as defined in s. 120.54(5)(b)2. An advisory committee member who participates in a meeting or workshop by means of communications media technology is deemed to be present at such
meeting or workshop. For the purpose of this paragraph, the communications media technology must allow for all persons attending such public meeting or workshop to audibly communicate, as would be allowed if they were physically present.

(b) The notice for such a meeting or workshop must state whether it will be conducted using communications media technology, how an interested person may participate, and the locations of any facilities where communications media technology will be available.

(c) Any other laws applicable to public meetings or workshops conducted by means of communications media technology must be liberally construed in their application to meetings and workshops conducted as provided in this subsection.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.