

# THE BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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## Board of Commissioners

Paul C. Edwards  
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## County Administrator

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## County Attorney

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February 27, 2023

## Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee

### Written Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 524

### Garrett County – Board of County Commissioners – Meetings

### Mr. Paul C. Edwards, Chairman, Board of County Commissioners

### Garrett County

February 28, 2023

The Garrett County Board of Commissioners supports Senate Bill 524, Garrett County – Board of County Commissioners – Meetings

The current provision of the law states that *the Board of County Commissioners will meet in public session weekly*. By practice, the Board of County Commissioners meet in public session biweekly. The intent of the legislation is to have our current practice of biweekly meeting be in compliance the law.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, Garrett County has live-streaming public meeting. We request that this language be added- *Public meetings may be in person or live streamed* to be clear that a live-streamed meeting was considered a “public meeting.”

Based on citizen input we request that the following language be added to ensure that future Boards could not conduct a public meeting via only live stream except in a state of emergency-*A board of Garrett County Commissioners may not meet solely via live streaming for more than two (2) consecutive meeting without a formal declaration of a state of emergency.*

The Board of County commissioners support SB 524 and believe it offers the citizens the opportunity to participate in county government meetings.

Thank you for your consideration and support for SB 524.