



Workforce Issuance

100 DCS 03.113.2

☒ Policy ☐ Information

To: MassHire Workforce Board Chairs
MassHire Workforce Board Directors
MassHire Career Center Directors
MassHire Fiscal Officers
MDCS Operations Managers

cc: WIOA State Partners

From: Beth Goguen, Director
MassHire Department of Career Services

Date: July 14, 2025

Subject: **Open Meeting Law: Suspension of Certain Provisions**

Purpose: To provide information to MassHire Workforce Boards, MassHire Career Centers and workforce partners regarding an additional extension of the suspension of certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L.e.30A, §20.

This policy is being revised to reflect the extension of the suspension of certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law. On March 28, 2025, Governor Healey signed into law a bill which extends the temporary provisions pertaining to the Open Meeting Law to June 30, 2027.

Background: On March 12, 2020, Governor Baker issued an Executive Order modifying certain requirements of the Open Meeting Law, to enable public bodies to carry out their responsibilities while adhering to public health recommendations regarding social distancing. On March 29th, 2023, Governor Healy signed an extension through March 31, 2025.

On March 28, 2025, Governor Healey signed into law a bill which extends the temporary provisions pertaining to the Open Meeting Law to June 30, 2027. Specifically, this further extension allows public bodies to continue holding

meetings remotely without a quorum of the public body physically present at a meeting location, and to provide "adequate, alternative" access to remote meetings.

The language does not make any substantive changes to the Open Meeting Law other than extending the expiration date of the temporary provisions regarding remote meetings from March 31, 2025 to June 30, 2027.

Policy: The Executive Order relieves public bodies from the requirement in the Open Meeting Law that meetings be conducted in a public place that is open and physically accessible to the public, provided that the public body makes provision to ensure public access to the deliberations of the public body through adequate, alternative means. "Adequate, alternative means" may include, without limitation, providing public access through telephone, internet, or satellite enabled audio or video conferencing or any other technology that enables the public to clearly follow the proceedings of the public body in real time. A municipal public body that for reasons of economic hardship and despite best efforts is unable to provide alternative means of public access in real time may instead post on its municipal website a full and complete transcript, recording, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as practicable afterwards.

In addition, all members of a public body may participate in a meeting remotely; the Open Meeting Law's requirement that a quorum of the body and the chair be physically present at the meeting location is suspended.

All other provisions of the Open Meeting Law, such as the requirements regarding posting notice of meetings and creating and maintaining accurate meeting minutes, as well as the limited, enumerated purposes for holding an executive session, remain in effect.

Action

Required: MassHire Workforce Boards should immediately implement the process to hold meetings in accordance with this executive order. Please ensure that board members and other interested individuals are apprised of this information.

Effective: Immediately

Inquiries: Please forward questions related to this guidance to PolicyQA@mass.gov and reference the issuance number and description.

Attachment: The full text of the Executive Order is available here:
https://www.mass.gov/doc/order-suspending-certain-provision-of-open-meeting-law/download?_ga=2.141223986.1449578466.1584101325-303426516.1493922272