

Remote Participation

940 CMR 29.10

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On November 11, 2011, the Attorney General promulgated regulations regarding remote participation at meetings of public bodies.

Preamble

- a) Subject to procedures and restrictions
- b) Physically attend meetings whenever possible
- c) Greater participation in government
- d) Ensure the purposes of the Open Meeting Law

Adoption of Remote Participation

- a) Board vote
- b) Simple majority
- c) Vote allows participating with certain requirements
- d) Vote applies to all subsequent meetings
- e) That public body and its committees

Revocation of Remote Participation

- a) Any person or entity with authority to adopt
- b) Can revoke at any time
- c) Same manner

Minimum Requirements for Remote Participation

- a) Audible to each other
- b) Quorum; remote participant cannot be counted
- c) Board Chair or designee, physically present
- d) May vote and considered present

Permissible Reasons for Remote Participation

- a) Personal illness
- b) Personal disability
- c) Emergency
- d) Military service
- e) Geographic distance

Technology

- a) Acceptable media methods
 - Telephone
 - Internet
 - Satellite enabled
 - Any other technology
- b) When video technology used, participant visible
- c) Public body determination
- d) Technical difficulties
- e) Associated costs

Procedures for Remote Participation

- a) Notification of participating remotely
- b) Identification of participant
- c) Voting
- d) Executive Session
- e) Documents

Effect on Bylaws or Policies

a) Bylaws

b) Policies

Remedy for Violation

- a) Investigation
- b) Discontinued use