

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

Amends the Open Meeting Law to specify conditions under which meetings may be conducted by telephone or other electronic means when meeting in person or by interactive television is not practical or prudent because of a health pandemic or because of an emergency declared under the Emergency Management Act. Provides that meetings must be closed to discuss certain medical records.

Section

1 Meetings By Telephone or Other Electronic Means.

Subd. 1. Conditions. Authorizes a meeting covered by the Open Meeting Law to be conducted by telephone or other electronic means if all of these conditions are met:

- the presiding officer, chief legal counsel, or chief administrative officer determines that meeting in person or by interactive television is not practical or prudent because of a health pandemic or a declaration of emergency under the Emergency Management Act;
- all members of the body can hear one another and can hear all discussion and testimony;
- members of the public at the regular meeting location can hear all discussion, testimony and votes, unless unfeasible due to the pandemic or emergency;
- at least one member of the body, chief legal counsel, or chief

Section

administrative officer is present at the regular meeting location, unless unfeasible due to the pandemic or emergency declaration;

- all votes are conducted by roll call.

Subd. 2. Members present for quorum, participation. Provides that each member of the body participating by telephone or other electronic means is considered present at the meeting for purposes of a quorum and participating in all proceedings.

Subd. 3. Monitoring. Provides that for a meeting under this section, the public body must allow a person to monitor the meeting electronically from another location. The body may require the person to pay for any documented additional costs the body incurs as a result of the additional connection.

Subd. 4. Notice of regular and all member sites. Provides that for a meeting under this section, the body must give notice of the regular meeting location, of the fact that some members may participate by telephone or other electronic means, and of the right of the public to monitor the meeting from another location.

- 2** **When meeting must be closed.** Requires a meeting to be closed if medical records governed by section 144.335 are discussed. Section 144.335 deals with health records supplied to a patient by a provider.