

As Introduced

134th General Assembly

Regular Session

2021-2022

H. B. No. 43

Representatives Sobecki, Hoops

**Cosponsors: Representatives Kelly, Howse, Crossman, Brown, Lepore-Hagan,
Miranda, Russo, Smith, K., Miller, A., Weinstein, Liston, Galonski, Brent, Boggs,
O'Brien**

A BILL

To enact section 121.221 of the Revised Code to 1
authorize public bodies to meet via 2
teleconference and video conference. 3

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 121.221 of the Revised Code be 4
enacted to read as follows: 5

Sec. 121.221. (A) As used in this section: 6

"Hearing" means an administrative hearing, hearing as 7
defined in section 119.01 of the Revised Code, or other hearing 8
at which a person may present written or oral testimony on a 9
matter before the public body. 10

"Public body" has the meaning defined in section 121.22 of 11
the Revised Code. 12

(B) Members of a public body may hold and attend meetings 13
and may conduct and attend hearings by means of teleconference 14
or video conference. Notwithstanding division (C) of section 15
121.22 of the Revised Code, members of a public body who attend 16

meetings or hearings by means of teleconference or video 17
conference shall be considered present in person at the meeting 18
or hearing, shall be permitted to vote, and shall be counted for 19
purposes of determining whether a quorum is present at the 20
meeting or hearing. 21

(C) The public body shall provide the public access to a 22
meeting held under this section and to any hearing held under 23
this section that the public would otherwise be entitled to 24
attend, commensurate with the method in which the meeting or 25
hearing is being conducted, including, but not limited to, 26
examples such as live-streaming by means of the internet, local 27
radio, television, cable, or public access channels, call-in 28
information for a teleconference, or by means of any other 29
similar electronic technology. The public body shall ensure that 30
the public can observe and hear the discussions and 31
deliberations of all the members of the public body, whether the 32
member is participating in person or electronically. 33

(D) The authority granted in this section applies 34
notwithstanding any conflicting provision of the Revised Code. 35
Nothing in this section shall be construed to negate any 36
provision of section 121.22 of the Revised Code, Chapter 119. of 37
the Revised Code, or other section of the Revised Code that is 38
not in conflict with this section. 39