

H. B. No. 257
As Introduced

_____ moved to amend as follows:

- In line 1 of the title, after "sections" insert "715.693," 1
- In line 6, after "sections" insert "715.693," 2
- In line 23, after "The" insert "board of directors of the" 3
- In line 32, delete "Members" and insert "Except as otherwise
provided in the Revised Code, members" 4 5
- In line 80, after "vote" insert "unless there is a motion for
unanimous consent, and the motion is not objected to by a member of the
public body"; after "." insert "If a vote is taken unanimously, the public
body shall provide the public with information on how the members of the
public body voted, including any members who abstained from voting." 6 7 8 9 10
- In line 90, after "expenditure" insert "as defined in the policy
adopted by the public body under this section,"; after "or" insert "a";
after "decision" insert "as defined by that policy" 11 12 13
- In line 109, delete "and to" and insert "," 14
- In line 110, after "evidence" insert ", and permit public comment,
if applicable" 15 16



In line 116, after "section." insert "If a section of the Revised Code permits a particular public body to meet or hold hearings by means of teleconference, video conference, or any other similar electronic technology, that section prevails over the provisions of this section with respect to that particular public body."

After line 166, insert:

"Sec. 715.693. (A) The requirement in division (C) of section 121.22 of the Revised Code that a member of a public body be present in person at a meeting open to the public in order to be part of a quorum or to vote does not apply to a board of directors of a joint economic development zone created under section 715.691 of the Revised Code, ~~or~~ a joint economic development review council created under section 715.692 of the Revised Code, or a board of directors of a joint economic development district created under section 715.72 of the Revised Code, if the board or council holds the meeting by interactive video conference or by teleconference in the following manner:

(1) The board or council establishes a primary meeting location that is open and accessible to the public.

(2) Meeting-related materials that are available before the meeting are sent via electronic mail, facsimile, hand-delivery, or United States postal service to each member.

(3) In the case of an interactive video conference, the board or council causes a clear video and audio connection to be established that enables all meeting participants at the primary meeting location to see and hear each member.

(4) In the case of a teleconference, the board or the council causes a clear audio connection to be established that

enables all meeting participants at the primary meeting location 45
to hear each member. 46

(5) All board or council members have the capability to 47
receive meeting-related materials that are distributed during a 48
meeting. 49

(6) A roll call voice vote is recorded for each vote 50
taken. 51

(7) The minutes of the board or council meeting identify 52
which members remotely attended the meeting by interactive video 53
conference or teleconference. 54

If the board or council proceeds under this section, use 55
of an interactive video conference is preferred, but nothing in 56
this section prohibits the council from conducting its meetings 57
by teleconference or by a combination of interactive video 58
conference and teleconference at the same meeting. 59

(B) A board of directors ~~or of~~ a joint economic 60
development review council or a joint economic development 61
district shall adopt rules necessary to implement this section. 62
At a minimum, the rules shall do all of the following: 63

(1) Authorize members to remotely attend a meeting by 64
interactive video conference or teleconference, or by a 65
combination thereof, in lieu of attending the meeting in person; 66

(2) Establish a minimum number of members that must be 67
physically present in person at the primary meeting location if 68
the board or council conducts a meeting by interactive video 69
conference or teleconference; 70

(3) Require that not more than one member remotely 71
attending a meeting by teleconference is permitted to be 72

physically present at the same remote location;	73
(4) Establish geographic restrictions for participation in meetings by interactive video conference and by teleconference;	74 75
(5) Establish a policy for distributing and circulating meeting-related materials to members, the public, and the media in advance of or during a meeting at which members are permitted to attend by interactive video conference or teleconference;	76 77 78 79
(6) Establish a method for verifying the identity of a member who remotely attends a meeting by teleconference."	80 81
In line 533, after "sections" insert "715.693,"	82

The motion was _____ agreed to.

<u>SYNOPSIS</u>	83
BWC and JEDD included; other changes	84
R.C. 121.221 and 715.693	85
Excludes from the bill's virtual meeting provisions the Board of Directors of the Bureau of Workers Compensation (BWC), rather than the entire BWC, thereby permitting members of other public bodies within the BWC to meet and hold hearings virtually.	86 87 88 89 90
Requires public bodies to define the phrases "major nonroutine expenditure" and "significant hiring decision,"--two factors that require in person meetings under the bill's provisions--in their policy adopted under the bill.	91 92 93 94
Requires that all votes in a meeting held virtually are	95

taken by roll call vote, except when there is a motion for	96
unanimous consent, and the motion is not objected to by a member	97
of the public body.	98
Requires the public body, if a vote is taken unanimously	99
at a meeting or hearing conducted virtually, to provide the	100
public with information on how the members of the public body	101
voted, including any members who abstained from voting.	102
Specifies that, if an existing provision of the Revised	103
Code permits a particular public body to meet or hold hearings	104
virtually, that provision prevails over the provisions of the	105
bill.	106
Clarifies that when a public body holds a meeting or	107
hearing virtually, it must provide a means for public comment at	108
the meeting or hearing, if applicable.	109
Provides that a member of a board of directors of a Joint	110
Economic Development District (JEDD) does not have to be present	111
in person at a meeting open to the public in order to be part of	112
a quorum or to vote if the JEDD board holds a virtual meeting in	113
accordance with existing provisions.	114