

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

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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