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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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H.B. 557
133rd General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Sobecki

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SUMMARY

- Allows public bodies to meet via teleconference or video conference during a declared public health state of emergency.
- Declares an emergency.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Public meetings during states of emergency

The bill modifies Open Meetings Law to allow public bodies to meet via teleconference or video conference when the Governor has declared a public health state of emergency. Open Meetings Law generally requires public bodies to take official action and deliberate official business only in open meetings where the public may attend and observe, and members of the public body must be present in person at a meeting in order to be considered present, vote, or be counted as part of a quorum. Under the bill, members of a public body who attend meetings by means of teleconference or video conference during a declared public health state of emergency are considered present in person at the meeting, are permitted to vote, and are counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present at the meeting.¹

¹ R.C. 121.22, not in the bill, and R.C. 121.221. The General Assembly has authorized various exceptions to the requirement. For example, the Ohio Board of Regents may meet via videoconferencing. R.C. 3333.02, not in the bill.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	03-16-20
