

A bill for an act
relating to the open meeting law; authorizing meetings by telephone or other
electronic means under certain conditions; proposing coding for new law in
Minnesota Statutes, chapter 13D.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. **[13D.021] MEETINGS BY TELEPHONE OR OTHER ELECTRONIC
MEANS; CONDITIONS.**

Subdivision 1. **Conditions.** A meeting governed by this section and section 13D.01,
subdivisions 1, 2, 4, and 5, may be conducted by telephone or other electronic means so
long as the following conditions are met:

(1) the presiding officer, chief legal counsel, or chief administrative officer for the
affected governing body determines that an in person meeting or a meeting conducted
under section 13D.02 is not practical or prudent because of a health pandemic or an
emergency declared under chapter 12;

(2) all members of the body participating in the meeting, wherever their physical
location, can hear one another and can hear all discussion and testimony;

(3) members of the public present at the regular meeting location of the body can
hear all discussion and testimony and all votes of the members of the body;

(4) at least one member of the body, chief legal counsel, or chief administrative
officer is physically present at the regular meeting location, unless unfeasible due to the
health pandemic or emergency declaration; and

(5) all votes are conducted by roll call, so each member's vote on each issue can be
identified and recorded.

2.1 Subd. 2. **Members are present for quorum, participation.** Each member of the
2.2 body participating in a meeting by telephone or other electronic means is considered
2.3 present at the meeting for purposes of determining a quorum and participating in all
2.4 proceedings.

2.5 Subd. 3. **Monitoring from remote site; costs.** If telephone or another electronic
2.6 means is used to conduct a meeting, to the extent practical, the body shall allow a person
2.7 to monitor the meeting electronically from a remote location. The body may require the
2.8 person making a connection to pay for the documented additional cost that the body incurs
2.9 as a result of the additional connection.

2.10 Subd. 4. **Notice of regular and all member sites.** If telephone or another electronic
2.11 means is used to conduct a regular, special, or emergency meeting, the public body
2.12 shall provide notice of the regular meeting location, of the fact that some members may
2.13 participate by telephone or other electronic means, and of the provisions of subdivision 3.
2.14 The timing and method of providing notice is governed by section 13D.04 of the Open
2.15 Meeting Law.