

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 22-3—sHB 5269

Planning and Development Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING REMOTE MEETINGS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

SUMMARY: The Freedom of Information Act generally requires public agencies to make their meetings, other than executive sessions, open to the public. This act makes permanent the authority for these agencies to hold publicly accessible meetings through electronic equipment (e.g., by telephone, video, or other conferencing platforms) or electronic equipment combined with an in-person meeting (hybrid meetings). Prior law allowed them to do so only until April 30, 2022.

The act also explicitly allows regional school districts to hold a remote or hybrid public meeting when presenting a proposed budget. By law, regional school districts must present the proposed budget at a public district meeting at least two weeks before the district's annual meeting.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the provision for regional school districts is effective October 1, 2022.

BACKGROUND

Remote and Hybrid Meeting Requirements

PA 21-2, June Special Session, § 149, established requirements for public agencies holding a meeting using electronic equipment. Among other things, agencies must (1) provide (a) at least 48 hours' notice of a regular meeting held in this manner and (b) instructions for how the public may attend the meeting and (2) make a recording or transcript of the meeting available to the public for at least 45 days afterward. They must also provide members of the public with a physical location and the equipment needed to attend the meeting in real-time, if requested, and the same opportunities to participate that they would have if the meeting were held in-person.