

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 March 1, 2022

3 SENATE BILL NO. 1547

By: Howard and Treat of the  
Senate

4 and

5 McCall of the House  
6

7  
8 An Act relating to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act;  
9 amending 25 O.S. 2021, Sections 307.1 and 311, which  
10 relate to videoconferences and teleconferences and  
11 notice; requiring live stream of certain meetings;  
12 reinstating certain alternative procedures in  
emergency circumstances; specifying expiration of  
13 alternate procedures; modifying certain notice  
14 requirement in emergency circumstances; and declaring  
an emergency.

15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

16 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 25 O.S. 2021, Section 307.1, is  
17 amended to read as follows:

18 Section 307.1. A. Except as provided in subsections C and D of  
19 this section, a public body may hold meetings by videoconference  
20 where each member of the public body is visible and audible to each  
21 other and the public through a video monitor, subject to the  
22 following:

- 23 1. a. except as provided for in subparagraph b of this  
24 paragraph, no less than a quorum of the public body

1 shall be present in person at the meeting site as  
2 posted on the meeting notice and agenda,

3 b. a virtual charter school approved and sponsored by the  
4 Statewide Virtual Charter School Board pursuant to the  
5 provisions of Section 3-145.3 of Title 70 of the  
6 Oklahoma Statutes shall maintain a quorum of members  
7 for the entire duration of the meeting whether using  
8 an in-person site, videoconference sites or any  
9 combination of such sites to achieve a quorum; and

10 c. each public meeting held by videoconference or  
11 teleconference shall be recorded either by written,  
12 electronic, or other means;

13 2. The meeting notice and agenda prepared in advance of the  
14 meeting, as required by law, shall indicate if the meeting will  
15 include videoconferencing locations and shall state:

16 a. the location, address, and telephone number of each  
17 available videoconference site, and

18 b. the identity of each member of the public body and the  
19 specific site from which each member of the body shall  
20 be physically present and participating in the  
21 meeting;

22 3. After the meeting notice and agenda are prepared and posted,  
23 as required by law, no member of the public body shall be allowed to  
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1 participate in the meeting from any location other than the specific  
2 location posted on the agenda in advance of the meeting;

3 4. In order to allow the public the maximum opportunity to  
4 attend and observe each public official carrying out the duties of  
5 the public official, a member or members of a public body desiring  
6 to participate in a meeting by videoconference shall participate in  
7 the videoconference from a site and room located within the district  
8 or political subdivision from which they are elected, appointed, or  
9 are sworn to represent;

10 5. Each site and room where a member of the public body is  
11 present for a meeting by videoconference shall be open and  
12 accessible to the public, and the public shall be allowed into that  
13 site and room. Public bodies may provide additional videoconference  
14 sites as a convenience to the public, but additional sites shall not  
15 be used to exclude or discourage public attendance at any  
16 videoconference site;

17 6. The public shall be allowed to participate and speak, as  
18 allowed by rule or policy set by the public body, in a meeting at  
19 the videoconference site in the same manner and to the same extent  
20 as the public is allowed to participate or speak at the site of the  
21 meeting;

22 7. Any materials shared electronically between members of the  
23 public body, before or during the videoconference, shall also be  
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1 immediately available to the public in the same form and manner as  
2 shared with members of the public body; ~~and~~

3 8. All votes occurring during any meeting conducted using  
4 videoconferencing shall occur and be recorded by roll call vote; and

5 9. To the extent practicable, if a public body maintains a  
6 website and utilizes a high-speed Internet connection, all meetings  
7 of the public body shall be streamed live on such website and posted  
8 on the website after the meeting.

9 B. No public body shall conduct an executive session by  
10 videoconference.

11 ~~C. Upon the effective date of this act and until February 15,~~  
12 ~~2022, or until thirty (30) days after the expiration or termination~~  
13 ~~of the state of emergency declared by the Governor to respond to the~~  
14 ~~threat of COVID-19 to the people of this state and the public's~~  
15 ~~peace, health and safety, whichever date first occurs, the The~~  
16 ~~provisions of this subsection and subsection D of this section shall~~  
17 ~~operate as law in this state apply to a public body in any county in~~  
18 ~~which the Governor has declared a state of emergency until the~~  
19 ~~emergency declaration expires or is terminated.~~

20 1. A public body may hold meetings by teleconference or  
21 videoconference if each member of the public body is audible or  
22 visible to each other and the public, subject to the following:

23 a. for a virtual charter school approved and sponsored by  
24 the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board pursuant to

1 the provisions of the Oklahoma Statutes, the public  
2 body shall maintain a quorum of members for the entire  
3 duration of the meeting whether using an in-person  
4 site, teleconference, or videoconference or any  
5 combination of such sites to achieve a quorum, and

6 b. if the meeting is held using either teleconference or  
7 videoconference capabilities, and at any time the  
8 audio connection is disconnected, the meeting shall be  
9 stopped and reconvened once the audio connection is  
10 restored;

11 2. The meeting notice and agenda prepared in advance of the  
12 meeting, as required by law, shall indicate if the meeting will  
13 include teleconferencing or videoconferencing and shall also state:

14 a. each public body member appearing remotely and the  
15 method of each member's remote appearance, and

16 b. the identity of the public body member or members who  
17 will be physically present at the meeting site, if  
18 any;

19 3. After the meeting notice and agenda are prepared and posted  
20 as required by law, public body members shall not be permitted to  
21 alter their method of attendance; provided, however, those members  
22 who were identified as appearing remotely may be permitted to  
23 physically appear at the meeting site, if any, for the meeting;

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1 4. The public body shall be allowed to participate and speak,  
2 as allowed by rule or policy set by the public body, in a meeting  
3 which utilizes teleconference or videoconference in the same manner  
4 and to the same extent as the public is allowed to participate or  
5 speak during a meeting where all public body members are physically  
6 present together at the meeting site;

7 5. Any documents or other materials provided to members of the  
8 public body or shared electronically between members of the public  
9 body during a meeting utilizing teleconferencing or  
10 videoconferencing shall also be immediately available to the public  
11 on the website of the public body, if the public body maintains a  
12 website; and

13 6. All votes occurring during any meeting utilizing  
14 teleconference or videoconference shall occur and be recorded by  
15 roll call votes.

16 D. Public bodies are permitted to conduct an executive session  
17 by teleconference or videoconference. For such executive sessions,  
18 no public body member is required to be physically present so long  
19 as each public body member is audible or visible to each other. The  
20 meeting notice and agenda prepared in advance of the meeting as  
21 required by law shall indicate if the executive session will include  
22 teleconferencing or videoconferencing and shall also state the  
23 identity of each public body member appearing remotely, the method  
24 of each member's remote appearance, and whether any member will be

1 physically present at the meeting site, if any, for the executive  
2 session.

3 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 25 O.S. 2021, Section 311, is  
4 amended to read as follows:

5 Section 311. A. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law,  
6 all regularly scheduled, continued or reconvened, special or  
7 emergency meetings of public bodies shall be preceded by public  
8 notice as follows:

9 1. All public bodies shall give notice in writing by December  
10 15 of each calendar year of the schedule showing the date, time and  
11 place of the regularly scheduled meetings of such public bodies for  
12 the following calendar year;

13 2. All state public bodies including, but not limited to,  
14 public trusts and other bodies with the state as beneficiary, shall  
15 give such notice to the Secretary of State;

16 3. All county public bodies including, but not limited to,  
17 public trusts and any other bodies with the county as beneficiary,  
18 shall give such notice to the county clerk of the county wherein  
19 they are principally located;

20 4. All municipal public bodies including, but not limited to,  
21 public trusts and any other bodies with the municipality as  
22 beneficiary, shall give such notice to the municipal clerk of the  
23 municipality wherein they are principally located;

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1           5. All multicounty, regional, areawide or district public  
2 bodies including, but not limited to, district boards of education,  
3 shall give such notice to the county clerk of the county wherein  
4 they are principally located, or if no office exists, to the county  
5 clerk of the county or counties served by such public body;

6           6. All governing boards of state institutions of higher  
7 education, and committees and subcommittees thereof, shall give such  
8 notice to the Secretary of State. All other public bodies covered  
9 by the provisions of the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act which exist under  
10 the auspices of a state institution of higher education, but a  
11 majority of whose members are not members of the institution's  
12 governing board, shall give such notice to the county clerk of the  
13 county wherein the institution is principally located;

14           7. The Secretary of State and each county clerk or municipal  
15 clerk shall keep a record of all notices received in a register open  
16 to the public for inspection during regular office hours, and, in  
17 addition, shall make known upon any request of any person the  
18 contents of the register;

19           8. If any change is to be made of the date, time or place of  
20 regularly scheduled meetings of public bodies, then notice in  
21 writing shall be given to the Secretary of State or county clerk or  
22 municipal clerk, as required herein, not less than ten (10) days  
23 prior to the implementation of any such change;

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1 9. In addition to the advance public notice in writing required  
2 to be filed for regularly scheduled meetings, described in paragraph  
3 1 of this subsection, all public bodies shall, at least twenty-four  
4 (24) hours prior to such regularly scheduled meetings, display  
5 public notice of the meeting by at least one of the following  
6 methods:

7 a. by posting information that includes date, time, place  
8 and agenda for the meeting in prominent public view at  
9 the principal office of the public body or at the  
10 location of the meeting if no office exists, or

11 b. by posting on the public body's Internet website the  
12 date, time, place and agenda for the meeting in  
13 accordance with Section 3106.2 of Title 74 of the  
14 Oklahoma Statutes. Additionally, the public body  
15 shall offer and consistently maintain an email  
16 distribution system for distribution of such notice of  
17 a public meeting required by this subsection, and any  
18 person may request to be included without charge, and  
19 their request shall be accepted. The emailed notice  
20 of a public meeting required by this subsection shall  
21 include in the body of the email or as an attachment  
22 to the email the date, time, place and agenda for the  
23 meeting and it shall be sent no less than twenty-four  
24 (24) hours prior to the meeting. Additionally, except

1 as provided in subparagraph c of this paragraph, the  
2 public body shall make the notice of a public meeting  
3 required by this subsection available to the public in  
4 the principal office of the public body or at the  
5 location of the meeting during normal business hours  
6 at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting,  
7 or

8 c. ~~upon the effective date of this act and until February~~  
9 ~~15, 2022, or until thirty (30) days after the~~  
10 ~~expiration or termination of the state of emergency~~  
11 ~~declared by the Governor to respond to the threat of~~  
12 ~~COVID-19 to the people of this state and the public's~~  
13 ~~peace, health and safety, whichever date first occurs~~  
14 for a public body in any county for which the Governor  
15 declares a state of emergency until the emergency  
16 declaration expires or is terminated, the public body  
17 shall not be required to make the notice of a public  
18 meeting available to the public in the principal  
19 office of the public body or at the location of the  
20 meeting during normal business hours at least twenty-  
21 four (24) hours prior to the meeting;

22 10. The twenty-four (24) hours required in paragraph 9 of this  
23 subsection shall exclude Saturdays, Sundays and holidays legally  
24 declared by the State of Oklahoma. The posting or distribution of a

1 notice of a public meeting as described in paragraph 9 of this  
2 subsection shall not preclude a public body from considering at its  
3 regularly scheduled meeting any new business. "New business", as  
4 used herein, shall mean any matter not known about or which could  
5 not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of the posting;

6 11. In the event any meeting is to be continued or reconvened,  
7 public notice of such action including date, time and place of the  
8 continued meeting, shall be given by announcement at the original  
9 meeting. Only matters appearing on the agenda of the meeting which  
10 is continued may be discussed at the continued or reconvened  
11 meeting;

12 12. Special meetings of public bodies shall not be held without  
13 public notice being given at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to  
14 the meetings. Such public notice of date, time and place shall be  
15 given in writing, in person or by telephonic means to the Secretary  
16 of State or to the county clerk or to the municipal clerk by public  
17 bodies in the manner set forth in paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of  
18 this subsection. The public body also shall cause written notice of  
19 the date, time and place of the meeting to be mailed or delivered to  
20 each person, newspaper, wire service, radio station and television  
21 station that has filed a written request for notice of meetings of  
22 the public body with the clerk or secretary of the public body or  
23 with some other person designated by the public body. Such written  
24 notice shall be mailed or delivered at least forty-eight (48) hours

1 prior to the special meeting. The public body may charge a fee of  
2 up to Eighteen Dollars (\$18.00) per year to persons or entities  
3 filing a written request for notice of meetings, and may require  
4 such persons or entities to renew the request for notice annually.  
5 In addition, all public bodies shall, at least twenty-four (24)  
6 hours prior to such special meetings, display public notice of the  
7 meeting, setting forth thereon the date, time, place and agenda for  
8 the meeting. Only matters appearing on the posted agenda may be  
9 considered at the special meeting. Such public notice shall be  
10 posted in prominent public view at the principal office of the  
11 public body or at the location of the meeting if no office exists.  
12 Twenty-four (24) hours prior public posting shall exclude Saturdays,  
13 Sundays and holidays legally declared by the State of Oklahoma. In  
14 lieu of the public posting requirements of this paragraph, a public  
15 body may elect to follow the requirements found in subparagraph b of  
16 paragraph 9 of this subsection, provided that forty-eight-hour  
17 notice is required for special meetings and that the forty-eight-  
18 hour requirement shall exclude Saturdays, Sundays and holidays  
19 legally declared by the State of Oklahoma;

20 13. In the event of an emergency, an emergency meeting of a  
21 public body may be held without the public notice heretofore  
22 required. Should an emergency meeting of a public body be  
23 necessary, the person calling such a meeting shall give as much  
24 advance public notice as is reasonable and possible under the

1 circumstances existing, in person or by telephonic or electronic  
2 means; and

3 14. A public body that gives public notice of a meeting for  
4 which there will be a videoconference option in accordance with  
5 Section 307.1 of this title shall not modify the method of meeting  
6 described in the notice prior to the meeting and shall conduct the  
7 meeting according to the methods described in the notice. If a code  
8 or password is required to access the videoconference meeting, the  
9 code or password shall be included in the public notice.

10 B. 1. All agendas required pursuant to the provisions of this  
11 section shall identify all items of business to be transacted by a  
12 public body at a meeting including, but not limited to, any proposed  
13 executive session for the purpose of engaging in deliberations or  
14 rendering a final or intermediate decision in an individual  
15 proceeding prescribed by the Administrative Procedures Act.

16 2. If a public body proposes to conduct an executive session,  
17 the agenda shall:

- 18 a. contain sufficient information for the public to  
19 ascertain that an executive session will be proposed,  
20 b. identify the items of business and purposes of the  
21 executive session, and  
22 c. state specifically the provision of Section 307 of  
23 this title authorizing the executive session.

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1       SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
2 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
3 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
4 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

5 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
6 March 1, 2022 - DO PASS  
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