

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO

—
H.P. 1466 - L.D. 1971

**An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory
Committee Concerning Remote Participation**

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §403-B, sub-§2, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 290, §1, is amended to read:

A. After notice and hearing the body has adopted a written policy governing the conditions upon which members of the body and the public may participate in a public proceeding of that body by remote methods;

(1) If a public body has not adopted a policy authorizing remote methods of participation under this section and if the chair of the body determines that an emergency or urgent issue exists that prevents the public body from meeting in person to adopt a policy, the chair may call a meeting of the body in which the members may participate by remote methods. Notice of the meeting must include information about how the public can participate in the meeting and the proposed policy or instructions on how to obtain a copy of the proposed policy in advance of the meeting. Once the meeting is convened, the members shall vote on whether to support the chair's determination that an emergency or urgent issue exists that prevents the public body from meeting in person.

(2) If 2/3 of the members vote in support of the chair's determination under subparagraph (1), after an opportunity for hearing, the members may vote on whether to adopt a policy authorizing remote methods of participation in public proceedings of the body under this section;

Sec. 2. 1 MRSA §403-B, sub-§2, ¶H, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 290, §1, is amended to read:

H. The public body must make all documents and other materials considered by the public body available, electronically or otherwise, to the public who attend by remote methods to the same extent customarily available to members of the public who attend the proceedings of the public body in person, as long as additional costs are not incurred by the public body. The public body must make the proposed policy regarding remote

participation available in advance of the meeting if meeting remotely under paragraph A, subparagraphs (1) and (2).