

As Introduced

**133rd General Assembly
Regular Session
2019-2020**

H. B. No. 557

Representative Sobecki

A BILL

To enact section 121.221 of the Revised Code to 1
authorize public bodies to meet via 2
teleconference and video conference during a 3
public health state of emergency as declared by 4
the Governor, and to declare an emergency. 5

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 121.221 of the Revised Code be 6
enacted to read as follows: 7

Sec. 121.221. (A) As used in this section, "public body" 8
has the meaning defined in section 121.22 of the Revised Code. 9

(B) During any period for which there has been an official 10
declaration by the governor that a public health state of 11
emergency exists, members of a public body may attend meetings 12
by means of teleconference or video conference. Notwithstanding 13
division (C) of section 121.22 of the Revised Code, members of a 14
public body who attend meetings by means of teleconference or 15
video conference shall be considered present in person at the 16
meeting, shall be permitted to vote, and shall be counted for 17
purposes of determining whether a quorum is present at the 18
meeting. 19

The public body shall make provisions for public 20
attendance at a location involved in the teleconference or video 21
conference. 22

Section 2. This act is hereby declared to be an emergency 23
measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public 24
peace, health, and safety. The reason for such necessity is to 25
minimize the impact to Ohio citizens from the COVID-19 disease 26
outbreak, and to establish a public body open meetings policy 27
for future public health emergencies. Therefore, this act shall 28
go into immediate effect. 29