

EMIS Advisory Council – Virtual Meeting Policy

FROM HOUSE BILL 257:

For the EMIS Advisory Council and all of its workgroups, focus group, or any other group meeting on behalf of the Council:

Except as otherwise provided in the Revised Code, members of a public body may hold and attend meetings and may conduct and attend hearings by means of video conference or any other similar electronic technology, and all of the following apply:

- (1) The public body shall provide notification of meetings and hearings held under this section to the public, to the media that have requested notification of a meeting, and to the parties required to be notified of a hearing at least seventy-two hours in advance of the meeting or hearing by reasonable methods by which any person may determine the time, location, agenda of the meeting or hearing, and the manner by which the meeting or hearing will be conducted, except in the event of an emergency requiring immediate official action, as defined by the policy. In the event of an emergency, the public body shall immediately notify the news media that have requested notification or the parties required to be notified of a hearing of the time, place, and purpose of the meeting or hearing.
- (2) The public body shall provide the public access to a meeting held under this section, and to any hearing held under this section that the public would otherwise be entitled to attend, commensurate with the method in which the meeting or hearing is being conducted, including for example, livestreaming by means of the internet, television, cable, or public access channels, or by means of any other similar electronic technology. The public body shall ensure that the public can observe and hear the discussions and deliberations of all the members of the public body, whether the member is participating in person or electronically. Members of the public body shall have a sufficient internet or other electronic connection to allow the member to be seen and heard clearly, and shall be visible at all times.
- (3) All votes taken in the meeting or hearing shall be taken by roll call vote unless there is a motion for unanimous consent, and the motion is not objected to by a member of the public body. If a vote is taken unanimously, the public body shall provide the public with information on how the members of the public body voted, including any members who abstained from voting.

- (4) Any member of the public body who intends to attend a meeting by means of video conference or other similar electronic technology shall notify the chairperson of that intent not less than forty-eight hours before the meeting, except in the case of an emergency as defined in the policy.
- (5) No public body may hold, and no member of a public body may attend meetings or conduct and attend hearings by means of video conference or other similar electronic technology if any of the following apply:
 - (a) The meeting or hearing involves a vote to approve a major nonroutine expenditure as defined in the policy adopted by the public body under this section;
 - (b) The meeting or hearing involves a vote to approve a significant hiring decision as defined by that policy;
 - (c) (c) The meeting or hearing involves a purpose to propose, approve, or vote on a tax issue or tax increase;
 - (d) Excluding expense reimbursements to members for actual expenses incurred while fulfilling their duties, the members of the public body are compensated for their position as members of the public body, except when members are participating in a multi-party meeting if the multi- party meeting does not involve a vote to approve a major nonroutine expenditure or significant hiring decision or involve a purpose to propose, approve, or vote on a tax issue or tax increase;
 - (e) The members of the public body are elected by vote of the general public to their positions as members, except when members are participating in a multi-party meeting if the multi- party meeting does not involve a vote to approve a major nonroutine expenditure or significant hiring decision or involve a purpose to propose, approve, or vote on a tax issue or tax increase.
- (6) If, upon the notification of an upcoming meeting of a public body, and not later than forty-eight hours before the meeting, the greater of at least ten per cent of the members of the public body or two members of the public body, notifies the chairperson of the public body that an item in the agenda must be acted upon at a meeting conducted fully in person, upon the chairperson's acknowledgment of receipt of the notification, the public body shall take action on the item of the agenda only at a meeting conducted fully in person.