

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or <mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org>

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: Yes

3A. "Murphy signs new state laws related to COVID-19," The Press of Atlantic City (NJ), March 23, 2020:

"Virus concerns lead to 'public' meetings without the public," Associated Press State Wire: New Jersey, March 21, 2020

"Coronavirus NJ: Murphy signs bill to protect sick employees, other virus-related legislation," northjersey.com, March 20, 2020

"State seeks to loosen meeting rules as officials tinker with tech - Atlantic freeholders may meet virtually 'until this thing is over'" The Press of Atlantic City, March 20, 2020

"First wave' of coronavirus stimulus bills head to Gov. Bills," The Star-Ledger, March 20, 2020

"J Aid package protects against eviction," Suburban Trends, March 22, 2020

"J May change public records law during virus," The Record, March 21, 2020

"J, at 'war' with coronavirus, changes public," northjersey.com, March 20, 2020

"Murphy signs aid package halting evictions and" The Record, March 22, 2020

Rwh/cl

P.L. 2020, CHAPTER 11, *approved March 20, 2020*
Assembly, No. 3850

1 AN ACT concerning the conduct of public meetings during periods
2 of emergency and supplementing P.L.1975, c.231 (C.10:4-6 et
3 seq.).
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
7

8 1. a. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, rule, or
9 regulation to the contrary, during a period declared pursuant to the
10 laws of this State as a state of emergency, public health emergency,
11 or state of local disaster emergency, a public body shall be
12 permitted to perform any of the following by means of
13 communication or other electronic equipment:

14 (1) conduct a meeting and any public business to be conducted
15 thereat,

16 (2) cause a meeting to be open to the public,

17 (3) vote, or

18 (4) receive public comment.

19 A public body shall not be deemed to have violated any
20 provision of P.L.1975, c.231 (C.10:4-6 et seq.) in performing such
21 functions by means of communication or other electronic equipment
22 as provided in this subsection.

23 b. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, rule, or
24 regulation to the contrary, during such periods of emergency, a
25 public body may elect to provide electronic notice pursuant to
26 section 1 of P.L.2002, c.91 (C.10:4-9.1) in lieu of the adequate
27 notice required under P.L.1975, c.231 (C.10:4-6 et seq.), and shall
28 not be deemed to have violated any provision of law thereunder in
29 providing such electronic notice. To the extent practicable, a public
30 body providing only electronic notice of a meeting pursuant to this
31 subsection shall limit public business discussed or effectuated
32 thereat to matters necessary for the continuing operation of
33 government and which relate to the applicable emergency
34 declaration.

35 c. This section shall not be construed to limit any authorization
36 under law to perform the functions as specified herein irrespective
37 of any emergency.

38 d. The Department of Community Affairs, and, with regard to
39 any board of education, the State Board of Education, may adopt
40 rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act, P.L. ,

41 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill). The rules
42 and regulations established pursuant to this section shall be
43 effective immediately upon filing with the Office of Administrative
44 Law for a period not to exceed 18 months, and may, thereafter, be

1 amended, adopted or readopted in accordance with the provisions of
2 the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1
3 et seq.).

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5 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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10 This bill explicitly authorizes a public body to conduct a meeting
11 and public business, cause a meeting to be open to the public, vote,
12 and receive public comment by means of communication or other
13 electronic equipment during a state of emergency, public health
14 emergency, or state of local disaster emergency. The bill also
15 allows a public body to provide notice of meetings electronically
16 through the internet during that time, but requires that public bodies
17 who exercise this option limit, to the extent practicable, the public
18 business conducted at that meeting to matters necessary for the
19 continuing operation of government and that relate to the applicable
20 emergency declaration. The bill does not modify any current
21 authorization under law to do anything permitted under the bill
22 during periods when such declarations of emergency are not in
23 effect.

24 “Public body” is defined under the “Senator Byron M. Baer
25 Open Public Meetings Act” to be a commission, authority, board,
26 council, committee or any other group of two or more persons
27 organized under the laws of this State, and collectively empowered
28 as a voting body to perform a public governmental function
29 affecting the rights, duties, obligations, privileges, benefits, or other
30 legal relations of any person, or collectively authorized to spend
31 public funds including the Legislature, but does not mean or include
32 the judicial branch of the government, any grand or petit jury, any
33 parole board or any agency or body acting in a parole capacity, the
34 State Commission of Investigation, the Apportionment Commission
35 established under Article IV, Section III, of the Constitution, or any
36 political party committee organized under Title 19 of the Revised
37 Statutes.

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42 Allows public bodies to conduct meetings, and provide notice,
43 by electronic means during periods of emergency.

ASSEMBLY, No. 3850

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman BETTYLOU DECROCE

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Assemblyman WILLIAM F. MOEN, JR.

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

Senator LORETTA WEINBERG

District 37 (Bergen)

Senator NILSA I. CRUZ-PEREZ

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator DAWN MARIE ADDIEGO

District 8 (Atlantic, Burlington and Camden)

Senator FRED H. MADDEN, JR.

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Senator JAMES W. HOLZAPFEL

District 10 (Ocean)

Senator ROBERT W. SINGER

District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Senator DECLAN J. O'SCANLON, JR.

District 13 (Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman DiMaso, Assemblymen Chiaravalloti, Conaway, Assemblywomen Jasey, Timberlake, McKnight, Chaparro, Assemblyman Wimberly, Assemblywomen Dunn, Downey, Assemblymen Houghtaling, Giblin, Zwicker, Assemblywoman Carter, Assemblymen Mejia, Freiman, Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson and Jimenez

SYNOPSIS

Allows public bodies to conduct meetings, and provide notice, by electronic means during periods of emergency.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/19/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning the conduct of public meetings during periods
2 of emergency and supplementing P.L.1975, c.231 (C.10:4-6 et
3 seq.).

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. a. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, rule, or
9 regulation to the contrary, during a period declared pursuant to the
10 laws of this State as a state of emergency, public health emergency,
11 or state of local disaster emergency, a public body shall be
12 permitted to perform any of the following by means of
13 communication or other electronic equipment:

14 (1) conduct a meeting and any public business to be conducted
15 thereat,

16 (2) cause a meeting to be open to the public,

17 (3) vote, or

18 (4) receive public comment.

19 A public body shall not be deemed to have violated any
20 provision of P.L.1975, c.231 (C.10:4-6 et seq.) in performing such
21 functions by means of communication or other electronic equipment
22 as provided in this subsection.

23 b. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, rule, or
24 regulation to the contrary, during such periods of emergency, a
25 public body may elect to provide electronic notice pursuant to
26 section 1 of P.L.2002, c.91 (C.10:4-9.1) in lieu of the adequate
27 notice required under P.L.1975, c.231 (C.10:4-6 et seq.), and shall
28 not be deemed to have violated any provision of law thereunder in
29 providing such electronic notice. To the extent practicable, a public
30 body providing only electronic notice of a meeting pursuant to this
31 subsection shall limit public business discussed or effectuated
32 thereat to matters necessary for the continuing operation of
33 government and which relate to the applicable emergency
34 declaration.

35 c. This section shall not be construed to limit any authorization
36 under law to perform the functions as specified herein irrespective
37 of any emergency.

38 d. The Department of Community Affairs, and, with regard to
39 any board of education, the State Board of Education, may adopt
40 rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act, P.L. ,
41 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill). The rules
42 and regulations established pursuant to this section shall be
43 effective immediately upon filing with the Office of Administrative
44 Law for a period not to exceed 18 months, and may, thereafter, be
45 amended, adopted or readopted in accordance with the provisions of
46 the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1
47 et seq.).

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6 This bill explicitly authorizes a public body to conduct a meeting
7 and public business, cause a meeting to be open to the public, vote,
8 and receive public comment by means of communication or other
9 electronic equipment during a state of emergency, public health
10 emergency, or state of local disaster emergency. The bill also
11 allows a public body to provide notice of meetings electronically
12 through the internet during that time, but requires that public bodies
13 who exercise this option limit, to the extent practicable, the public
14 business conducted at that meeting to matters necessary for the
15 continuing operation of government and that relate to the applicable
16 emergency declaration. The bill does not modify any current
17 authorization under law to do anything permitted under the bill
18 during periods when such declarations of emergency are not in
19 effect.

20 “Public body” is defined under the “Senator Byron M. Baer
21 Open Public Meetings Act” to be a commission, authority, board,
22 council, committee or any other group of two or more persons
23 organized under the laws of this State, and collectively empowered
24 as a voting body to perform a public governmental function
25 affecting the rights, duties, obligations, privileges, benefits, or other
26 legal relations of any person, or collectively authorized to spend
27 public funds including the Legislature, but does not mean or include
28 the judicial branch of the government, any grand or petit jury, any
29 parole board or any agency or body acting in a parole capacity, the
30 State Commission of Investigation, the Apportionment Commission
31 established under Article IV, Section III, of the Constitution, or any
32 political party committee organized under Title 19 of the Revised
33 Statutes.

ASSEMBLY HOMELAND SECURITY AND STATE
PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3850

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 16, 2020

The Assembly Homeland Security and State Preparedness Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3850.

As reported by the committee, this bill allows public bodies to conduct meetings by electronic means during periods of emergency.

The provisions of the bill explicitly authorize a public body to conduct a meeting and public business, cause a meeting to be open to the public, vote, and receive public comment by means of communication or other electronic equipment during a state of emergency, public health emergency, or state of local disaster emergency. The bill also allows a public body to provide notice of meetings electronically through the internet during that time, but requires that public bodies who exercise this option limit, to the extent practicable, the public business conducted at that meeting to matters necessary for the continuing operation of government and that relate to the applicable emergency declaration. The bill does not modify any current authorization under law to do anything permitted under the bill during periods when such declarations of emergency are not in effect.

“Public body” is defined under the “Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act” to be a commission, authority, board, council, committee or any other group of two or more persons organized under the laws of this State, and collectively empowered as a voting body to perform a public governmental function affecting the rights, duties, obligations, privileges, benefits, or other legal relations of any person, or collectively authorized to spend public funds including the Legislature, but does not mean or include the judicial branch of the government, any grand or petit jury, any parole board or any agency or body acting in a parole capacity, the State Commission of Investigation, the Apportionment Commission established under Article IV, Section III, of the Constitution, or any political party committee organized under Title 19 of the Revised Statutes.

SENATE, No. 2294

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

Senator LORETTA WEINBERG

District 37 (Bergen)

Senator NILSA I. CRUZ-PEREZ

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator DAWN MARIE ADDIEGO

District 8 (Atlantic, Burlington and Camden)

Senator FRED H. MADDEN, JR.

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Senator JAMES W. HOLZAPFEL

District 10 (Ocean)

Senator ROBERT W. SINGER

District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Senator DECLAN J. O'SCANLON, JR.

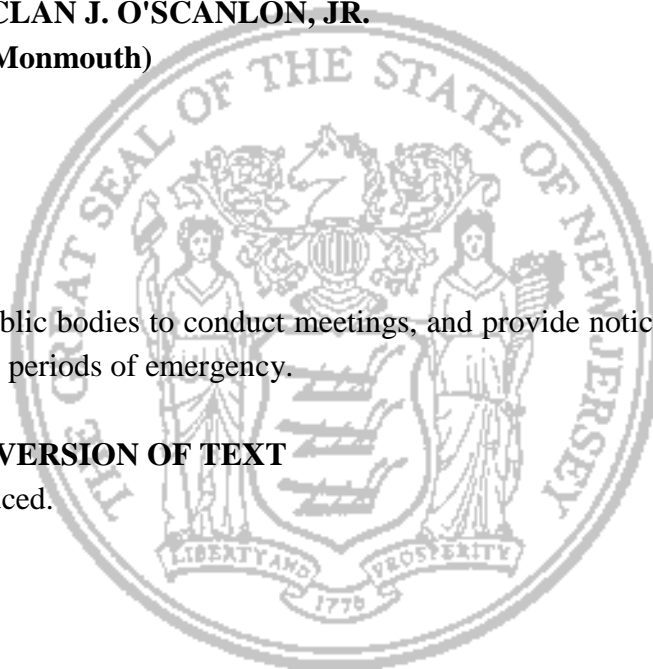
District 13 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Allows public bodies to conduct meetings, and provide notice, by electronic means during periods of emergency.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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32 thereat to matters necessary for the continuing operation of
33 government and which relate to the applicable emergency
34 declaration.

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36 under law to perform the functions as specified herein irrespective
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39 any board of education, the State Board of Education, may adopt
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41 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill). The rules
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44 Law for a period not to exceed 18 months, and may, thereafter, be
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47 et seq.).

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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25 affecting the rights, duties, obligations, privileges, benefits, or other
26 legal relations of any person, or collectively authorized to spend
27 public funds including the Legislature, but does not mean or include
28 the judicial branch of the government, any grand or petit jury, any
29 parole board or any agency or body acting in a parole capacity, the
30 State Commission of Investigation, the Apportionment Commission
31 established under Article IV, Section III, of the Constitution, or any
32 political party committee organized under Title 19 of the Revised
33 Statutes.

Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

03/20/2020

TRENTON – Today, Governor Phil Murphy signed the following bills and resolutions into law:

A-3095/S-1982 (Mazzeo/Beach, Turner) – Provides county clerks with additional week to mail ballots for 2020 primary election; requires ballot position draw to occur one day early if statutory date falls on holiday

A-3840/S-2281 (Lampitt, Dunn, Quijano/Ruiz, Cunningham) – Requires school districts to provide school meals or meal vouchers to students eligible for free and reduced price school meals during school closures due to COVID-19 epidemic

A-3843/S-2283 (McKeon, Bramnick, Chaparro/Vitale, Lagana, Pou, Bateman) – Requires health insurance and Medicaid coverage for testing of coronavirus disease 2019 and for telemedicine and telehealth during coronavirus disease 2019 state of emergency

A-3849/S-2302 (Johnson, Moen, Timberlake/A.M. Bucco, Cruz-Perez, Weinberg, Ruiz, Addiego, Madden, C.A. Brown, Holzapfel, Singer, O'Scanlon) – Modifies deadline by which public agency is required to respond to request for government record during period of emergency

A-3850/S-2294 (Murphy, DeCroce, Moen/Beach, A.M. Bucco, Weinberg, Cruz-Perez, Ruiz, Addiego, Madden, Holzapfel, Singer, O'Scanlon) – Allows public bodies to conduct meetings, and provide notice, by electronic means during periods of emergency

A-3851/S-2295 (Schaer, Scharfenberger, Reynolds-Jackson/A.M. Bucco, Gopal, Cruz-Perez, Madden, Ruiz, Scutari, Bateman, C.A. Brown, Holzapfel, Singer, O'Scanlon, Oroho) – Permits extension of deadlines for adoption of county and municipal budgets under certain circumstances

A-3854/S-2286 (Conaway, Munoz, Benson/Vitale, Gill, Cruz-Perez, Ruiz, Addiego, Greenstein, T. Kean, C.A. Brown, Holzapfel, Singer, O'Scanlon) – Authorizes all licensed health care facilities and laboratories to collect specimens to test for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19); allows waiver of staffing ratio requirements

A-3855/S-2287 (Mosquera, Stanfield, Vainieri Huttler/T. Kean, Codey, Cruz-Perez, Ruiz, Addiego, Pennacchio, C.A. Brown, Holzapfel, Singer, O'Scanlon) – Requires food access information be displayed on websites of 2-1-1 system and executive branch departments during public health emergencies to the extent practicable

A-3861/S-2290 (Karabinchak, Johnson, Greenwald/Diegnan, Ruiz, Testa, C.A. Brown, Holzapfel, Singer) – Permits corporations to hold shareholders' meetings in part or solely by means of remote communication during state of emergency

A-3865/S-2291 (Chaparro, Reynolds-Jackson, Verrelli/Addiego, Bateman, Pou, Ruiz, C.A. Brown, Holzapfel, Singer, Turner) – Limits return of items purchased from retail food stores under certain circumstances

AJR-158/SJR-77 (DeAngelo, DePhillips/Cruz-Perez, Pou, Ruiz, Greenstein, T. Kean, C.A. Brown, Holzapfel, Singer, O'Scanlon) – Urges FCC to take temporary measures to secure broadband access for those affected by COVID-19