



CLIENT ALERT

GOVERNOR BAKER EXTENDS EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATIONS PERTAINING TO THE OPEN MEETING LAW

Governor Baker signed into law an Act Relative to Extending Certain State of Emergency Accommodations (“Order”) on July 16, 2022. No changes to the Open Meeting Law were made. The Order only extends the temporary provisions regarding remote meetings to March 31, 2023.

Public bodies subject to the Open Meeting Law continue to be:

1. Relieved from the requirement to hold meetings in a public place that is open and physically accessible to the public, provided that provisions are made to ensure public access to deliberations for members of the public through other means. This includes the use of a phone conference line, social media and internet streaming services as well as other similar methods of access; and
2. Permitted to offer remote participation by all members of the body. This suspends the requirement that a quorum of members and the chair of a public body must be physically present at a specified location.

Public bodies that utilize the relief described above must:

1. Include notice of how the public may follow a public meeting in the meeting notice, such as by posting a call-in number with the Open Meeting Law notice; and
2. Ensure that any party entitled or required to appear before the body may participate through the same means as members of the body.

The Order will remain in effect until it is rescinded.

A complete version of the remote meeting accommodations which were extended by the Order may be viewed [here](#).

If you have any questions about the Order or compliance with the Open Meeting Law generally, please contact Attorneys Elka Sachs, esachs@kb-law.com, or Bettina Toner, bft@kb-law.com.