

HB 1518 - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-3031

12/08

HOUSE BILL **1518**

AN ACT permitting remote participation at county delegation meetings.

SPONSORS: Rep. Damon, Sull. 8; Rep. B. Sullivan, Sull. 1; Rep. Girard, Sull. 6; Rep. Lucas, Graf. 7; Rep. Cloutier, Sull. 6; Rep. Weber, Ches. 5; Rep. O'Rorke, Ches. 7; Rep. Oppel, Graf. 9

COMMITTEE: Municipal and County Government

ANALYSIS

This bill requires that county commission or delegation meetings open to the public allow members of the commission or delegation to participate remotely where attendance in person is not reasonably practical.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six

AN ACT permitting remote participation at county delegation meetings.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Meetings Open to Public; County Delegation Meetings; Option to Participate Remotely
2 Required. Amend the introductory paragraph RSA 91-A:2, III to read as follows:

3 III. ***With the exception of RSA 91-A:2-c, IV, [A] a*** public body may, but is not required to,
4 allow one or more members of the body to participate in a meeting by electronic or other means of
5 communication for the benefit of the public and the governing body, subject to the provisions of this
6 paragraph.

7 2 New Paragraph; County Commissioner and Delegation Meetings; Option to Participate
8 Remotely Required. Amend RSA 91-A:2-c by inserting after paragraph III the following new
9 paragraph:

10 IV. All county commission and delegation meetings shall allow one or more members of the
11 county commission or delegation to participate in a meeting by electronic or other means of
12 communication for the benefit of the public and the county commission or delegation, subject to the
13 provisions of this paragraph.

14 (a) A member of the county commission or delegation may participate in a meeting other
15 than by attendance in person at the location of the meeting only when such attendance is not
16 reasonably practical. Any reason that such attendance is not reasonably practical shall be stated in
17 the minutes of the meeting.

18 (b) Except in an emergency, a quorum of the county commission or county delegation
19 shall be physically present at the location specified in the meeting notice as the location of the
20 meeting. For purposes of this subparagraph, an "emergency" means that immediate action is
21 imperative and the physical presence of a quorum is not reasonably practical within the period of
22 time requiring action. The determination that an emergency exists shall be made by the chairman
23 or presiding officer of the county commission or delegation, and the facts upon which that
24 determination is based shall be included in the minutes of the meeting.

25 (c) Each part of a meeting required to be open to the public shall be audible or otherwise
26 discernable to the public at the location specified in the meeting notice as the location of the meeting.
27 Each member participating electronically or otherwise must be able to simultaneously hear each
28 other and speak to each other during the meeting, and shall be audible or otherwise discernable to
29 the public in attendance at the meeting's location. Any member participating in such fashion shall
30 identify the persons present in the location from which the member is participating. No meeting
31 shall be conducted by electronic mail or any other form of communication that does not permit the

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1 public to hear, read, or otherwise discern meeting discussion contemporaneously at the meeting
2 location specified in the meeting notice.

3 (d) Any meeting held pursuant to the terms of this paragraph shall comply with all of
4 the requirements of this chapter relating to public meetings, and shall not circumvent the spirit and
5 purpose of this chapter as expressed in RSA 91-A:1.

6 (e) A member participating in a meeting by the means described in this paragraph is
7 deemed to be present at the meeting for purposes of voting. All votes taken during such a meeting
8 shall be by roll call vote.

9 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.