



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 746

H.P. 551

House of Representatives, March 5, 2021

An Act Regarding Remote Participation in Municipal Meetings

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rt B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative DILLINGHAM of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Senator TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin and
Representatives: COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, TUELL of East Machias.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §403-B is enacted to read:

§403-B. Public proceedings of municipal agencies through remote access

1. Remote access. Notwithstanding any provision of law or municipal charter provision or ordinance to the contrary, any board, commission, agency or authority of a municipality subject to this subchapter may conduct a public proceeding through telephonic, video, electronic or other similar means of remote participation under the following conditions:

A. The board, commission, agency or authority of a municipality determines that participation by the public may be through telephonic, video, electronic or other similar means of remote participation;

B. Notice of the public proceeding has been given in accordance with section 406 and includes the method by which the public may attend in accordance with paragraph A;

C. Each member of the board, commission, agency or authority of a municipality who is participating in the public proceeding is able to hear and speak to all the other members during the public proceeding, and members of the public attending the public proceeding in the location identified in the notice given pursuant to paragraph A are able to hear all members participating at other locations; and

D. All votes taken during the public proceeding are taken by roll call vote.

2. Application to other proceedings. This section does not apply to town meetings held pursuant to Title 30-A, section 2524 or regional school unit budget meetings held pursuant to Title 20-A, section 1482-A.

SUMMARY

This bill establishes in law the authorization for boards, commissions, agencies and authorities of municipalities to conduct meetings remotely.