

CLIENT ALERT

GOVERNOR HEALEY EXTENDS TEMPORARY OPEN MEETING LAW PROVISIONS THROUGH MARCH 31, 2025

On March 29, 2023, Governor Healey signed into law a supplemental budget bill which, among other matters, extends certain temporary remote meeting provisions of the Open Meeting Law through **March 31, 2025**.

Pursuant to the supplemental budget bill, public bodies subject to the Open Meeting Law (including charter schools and others) 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 supplemental budget bill makes no other substantive changes to the Open Meeting Law other than extending the expiration of the temporary remote meeting provisions until March 31, 2025. Please refer to our previous <u>client alert</u> for additional information about the Open Meeting Law.

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