

**ASSEMBLY, No. 4930**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**221st LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 21, 2024

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman ROSAURA "ROSY" BAGOLIE**

**District 27 (Essex and Passaic)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires board of education to adopt policy permitting remote attendance by board member in certain circumstances.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



A4930 BAGOLIE

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1 AN ACT concerning board of education meetings and supplementing  
2 chapter 10 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

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7 1. a. A board of education shall adopt a policy authorizing a  
8 member of the board of education to attend and participate in a  
9 meeting of the board remotely using virtual or electronic means, if  
10 extenuating circumstances exist which prevent the member from  
11 attending the meeting in-person.

12 b. The policy established pursuant to subsection a. of this  
13 section shall, at minimum:

14 (1) describe the extenuating circumstances in which a member of  
15 the board is permitted to attend the meeting remotely, which  
16 circumstances shall include, but not be limited to: accommodating a  
17 medical condition, illness, or disability; to provide childcare for the  
18 member's child; or to meet obligations of the member's  
19 employment;

20 (2) require a request for remote attendance to be made in  
21 advance of the meeting and be approved by the president of the  
22 board;

23 (3) allow for the members of the public and other board members  
24 to hear the comments made by the board member attending  
25 remotely and for the board member attending remotely to hear  
26 comments made by members of the public and other board  
27 members;

28 (4) detail the permitted methods by which a board member may  
29 attend remotely, which methods may include telephone, video-  
30 conferencing, or other electronic means;

31 (5) establish procedures to ensure that a board member attending  
32 remotely has real-time access to any materials that are presented  
33 and made available to board members attending the meeting in-  
34 person; and

35 (6) establish a maximum number of meetings for which a board  
36 member may attend virtually, which shall not exceed three  
37 consecutive meetings.

38 c. A member of a board of education attending a meeting of the  
39 board remotely pursuant to a policy established under subsection a.  
40 of this section shall be considered present for the purposes of  
41 establishing a quorum.

42 d. A member of a board of education attending a meeting of the  
43 board remotely shall be permitted to attend and participate in an  
44 executive or closed session meeting of the board, provided that:

45 (1) the board member is attending the executive or closed session  
46 without the presence of any non-board members;

47 (2) the executive or closed session utilizes remote access  
48 methods that do not allow non-board members to hear or see the  
49 proceedings; and

1 (3) no portion of the proceedings of the executive or closed  
2 session is recorded, photographed, or otherwise reproduced in a  
3 visual or audio format.

4 e. A board of education shall acquire adequate technology and  
5 communications equipment to effectuate the purposes of this  
6 section.

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8 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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13 This bill requires a board of education to adopt a policy  
14 authorizing a member of the board of education to attend and  
15 participate in a meeting of the board remotely using virtual or  
16 electronic means. Pursuant to the bill, the policy may only permit a  
17 board member to remotely attend a board meeting if extenuating  
18 circumstances exist which prevent the member from attending the  
19 meeting in-person.

20 The policy is to: (1) describe the extenuating circumstances in  
21 which a member of the board is permitted to attend the meeting  
22 remotely, including accommodating a medical condition, illness, or  
23 disability; (2) require a request for remote attendance to be made in  
24 advance of the meeting and be approved by the board president; (3)  
25 allow for the members of the public and other board members to  
26 hear the comments made by the board member attending remotely  
27 and for the board member to hear comments made by members of  
28 the public and other board members; (4) detail the permitted  
29 methods by which a member of the board may attend remotely  
30 which may include telephone, video-conferencing, or other  
31 electronic means; (5) establish procedures to ensure that a member  
32 of the board attending remotely has real-time access to any  
33 materials that are presented and available to members of the board  
34 attending the meeting in-person; and (6) establish a maximum  
35 number of meetings for which a member may attend virtually,  
36 which is prohibited from exceeding three consecutive meetings.

37 The bill stipulates that a member attending the meeting remotely  
38 pursuant to the policy established under the bill is to be considered  
39 present for the purposes of establishing a quorum. The bill also  
40 permits a member attending remotely to attend and participate in an  
41 executive or closed session of the board provided that certain  
42 conditions are met.

43 Finally, the bill requires a board of education to acquire adequate  
44 technology and communications equipment to effectuate the  
45 purposes of the bill.