STATE OF NEW YORK

8155

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

July 7, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. PAULIN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the public officers law, in relation to videoconferencing at public meetings and requiring that the minutes of a public meeting at which videoconferencing is used reflect such fact

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Subdivisions (c) and (d) of section 103 of the public officers law, subdivision (c) as added by chapter 289 of the laws of 2000 and subdivision (d) as added by chapter 40 of the laws of 2010, are amended to read as follows:

(c) [~~A public body that uses videoconferencing to conduct its meetings shall provide an opportunity for the public to attend, listen and observe at any site at which a member participates.~~

~~(d)~~] Public bodies shall make or cause to be made all reasonable efforts to ensure that meetings are held in an appropriate facility which can adequately accommodate members of the public who wish to attend such meetings.

§ 2. Subdivision 4 of section 104 of the public officers law, as added by chapter 289 of the laws of 2000, is amended to read as follows:

4. If videoconferencing is used to conduct a meeting **or such meeting is being held both physically at a location or locations open to the public and also virtually by one or more members of the public body at a location or locations not open to the public**, the public notice for the meeting shall inform the public that videoconferencing will be used[~~,~~] **and shall** identify the **physical** locations for the meeting[~~, and state that the public has the right to attend the meeting at any of the locations~~] **that shall be open to the public**.

§ 3. Section 106 of the public officers law is amended by adding a new subdivision 4 to read as follows:

EXPLANATION--Matter in ***italics*** (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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4. The minutes of a meeting shall reflect whether the meeting was conducted by electronic means in whole or in part, the type of electronic means if used, which if any members participated by electronic means, when each member participating by electronic means joined or left the meeting, and any interruption in or suspension of the meeting due to a technical problem with the electronic means supporting the meeting if used.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.