STATE OF NEW YORK

4687--B

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 8, 2021

Introduced by Sen. MAYER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Investigations and Government Operations -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the public officers law, in relation to directing public bodies that have meetings that allow public comments to provide a means for the public to comment in real time

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

Section 1. Section 103 of the public officers law is amended by adding two new subdivisions (g) and (h) to read as follows:

(g) Any meeting of a public body that is open to the public, is broadcasted, webcasted, or otherwise recorded and/or transmitted by audio or video means, and allows for public comment, shall provide for an opportunity for the public to comment in real time by any available means during the time allocated for public comment. Public bodies shall adopt and make publicly available, rules or policies regarding public comment in any meeting open to the public that is broadcasted, webcasted, or otherwise recorded and/or transmitted by audio or video and allows for public comment, that are reasonable and treat all members of the public equally.

(h) The committee on open government shall establish advisory guidelines governing public body rules and policies at open public body meetings that allow for public comment, including, but not limited to, guidelines regarding the manner in which a public body may moderate real time public comment and guidelines establishing the best practices and standards regarding real time public comment at public body meetings that are open to the public, broadcasted, webcasted, and/or transmitted via audio or video.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall have become a law.

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

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