STATE OF NEW YORK

3805

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 30, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. SIMON, DURSO, SEAWRIGHT, ZINERMAN, DINOWITZ, BURDICK, STIRPE, K. BROWN, GIGLIO -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the public officers law and the public buildings law, in relation to authorizing the public to participate in public meetings in person or remotely

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

Section 1. Subdivisions (b) and (d) of section 103 of the public officers law, subdivision (b) as added by chapter 368 of the laws of 1977 and subdivision (d) as added by chapter 43 of the laws of 2010, are amended to read as follows:

(b) Public bodies shall make or cause to be made all reasonable efforts to ensure that meetings are held in facilities that permit barrier-free physical access to [~~the physically handicapped~~] **persons with disabilities**, as defined in subdivision five of section fifty of the public buildings law.

(d) 1. Any meeting of a public body that is open to the public shall be open to being photographed, broadcast, webcast, or otherwise recorded and/or transmitted by audio or video means. As used herein the term "broadcast" shall also include the transmission of signals by cable.

2. **Any meeting of a public body shall allow the public to participate in the meeting in person or remotely through the use of a telephone conference, a video conference and/or other similar technology.**

3. A public body may adopt rules, consistent with recommendations from the committee on open government, reasonably governing the location of equipment and personnel used to photograph, broadcast, webcast, or otherwise record a meeting so as to conduct its proceedings in an orderly manner. Such rules shall be conspicuously posted during meetings and written copies shall be provided upon request to those in attendance.

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

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§ 2. Subdivision 5 of section 50 of the public buildings law, as added by chapter 656 of the laws of 1972, is amended to read as follows:

5. [~~"Physically handicapped"~~] "Persons with disabilities" means

(a) impairment requiring confinement to a wheel chair; or

(b) impairment causing difficulty or insecurity in walking or climbing stairs or requiring the use of braces, crutches or other artificial supports; or impairment caused by amputation, arthritis, spastic condition or pulmonary, cardiac or other ills rendering the individual semi-ambulatory; or

(c) total or partial impairment of hearing or sight causing insecurity or likelihood of exposure to danger in public places; or

(d) impairment due to conditions of aging and incoordination.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.