ENGROSSED HOUSE AMENDMENT 1 TO 2 ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 1055 By: Kidd of the Senate 3 and Pae of the House 4 5 6 7 An Act relating to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act; amending 25 O.S. 2021, Section 307.1, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 182, O.S.L. 2022 (25 O.S. Supp. 8 2022, Section 307.1), which relates to 9 videoconferences; providing exception for certain quorum requirements for community action agency boards; removing obsolete language; conforming 10 statutory references; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency. 11 12 1.3 14 AMENDMENT NO. 1. Strike the title, enacting clause, and entire bill and insert: 15 16 "An Act relating to public meetings; amending 25 O.S. 2021, Sections 304, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 17 123, O.S.L. 2022, and 307.1, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 182, O.S.L. 2022 (25 O.S. Supp. 2023, 18 Sections 304 and 307.1), which relate to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act; modifying definitions; providing a definition for public health emergency; stating 19 requirements for a public body to conduct meetings 20 utilizing electronic means; clarifying quorum requirements for specific agencies and meetings held 21 by electronic means; establishing public availability requirements; clarifying notice requirements; 22 permitting participation by the public; prohibiting certain private electronic communications; 23 establishing conditions for immunity from liability for violations; providing for codification; and

providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

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SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 25 O.S. 2021, Section 304, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 123, O.S.L. 2022 (25 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 304), is amended to read as follows:

Section 304. As used in the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act:

- 1. "Public body" means the governing bodies of all municipalities located within this state, boards of county commissioners of the counties in this state, boards of public and higher education in this state and all boards, bureaus, commissions, agencies, trusteeships, authorities, councils, committees, public trusts or any entity created by a public trust including any committee or subcommittee composed of any of the members of a public trust or other legal entity receiving funds from the Rural Economic Action Plan Fund as authorized by Section 2007 of Title 62 of the Oklahoma Statutes, task forces or study groups in this state supported in whole or in part by public funds or entrusted with the expending of public funds, or administering public property, and shall include all committees or subcommittees of any public body. Public body shall not include:
 - a. the state judiciary,
 - b. the Council on Judicial Complaints when conducting, discussing, or deliberating any matter relating to a complaint received or filed with the Council,
 - c. the Legislature, or

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- administrative staffs of public bodies including, but not limited to, faculty meetings and athletic staff meetings of institutions of higher education when those staffs are not meeting with the public body, or entry-year assistance committees. Furthermore, public body shall not include the,
- multidisciplinary teams provided for in Section 1-9102 of Title 10A of the Oklahoma Statutes, in Section
 2 10-115 of this act Title 43A of the Oklahoma

 Statutes, and in subsection C of Section 1-502.2 of
 Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes or any school board
 meeting for the sole purpose of considering
 recommendations of a multidisciplinary team and
 deciding the placement of any child who is the subject
 of the recommendations. Furthermore, public body
 shall not include,
- f. meetings conducted by stewards designated by the

 Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission pursuant to Section

 203.4 of Title 3A of the Oklahoma Statutes when the

 stewards are officiating at races or otherwise

 enforcing rules of the Commission. Furthermore,

 public body shall not include, or
- g. the board of directors of a Federally Qualified Health Center;

- 2. "Meeting" means the conduct of business of a public body by a majority of its members being personally together or, as authorized by Section 307.1 of this title, together pursuant to a videoconference utilizing electronic means. Meeting shall not include informal gatherings of a majority of the members of the public body when no business of the public body is discussed;
- 3. "Regularly scheduled meeting" means a meeting at which the regular business of the public body is conducted;
- 4. "Special meeting" means any meeting of a public body other than a regularly scheduled meeting or emergency meeting;
- 5. "Emergency meeting" means any meeting called for the purpose of dealing with an emergency including but not limited to a public health emergency. For purposes of the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, an emergency is defined as "emergency" means a situation involving injury to persons or injury and damage to public or personal property or immediate financial loss when the time requirements for public notice of a special meeting would make such procedure impractical and increase the likelihood of injury or damage or immediate financial loss;
- 6. "Continued or reconvened meeting" means a meeting which is assembled for the purpose of finishing business appearing on an agenda of a previous meeting. For the purposes of the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, only matters on the agenda of the previous meeting at

which the announcement of the continuance is made may be discussed at a continued or reconvened meeting;

- 7. "Public health emergency" means an occurrence of imminent threat of an illness or health condition that poses a high probability of a large number of deaths or serious or long-term disabilities in the affected population, or widespread exposure to an infectious or toxic agent that poses a significant risk of harm to a large number of people in the affected population, for which the Governor or an elected official or officials of a political subdivision are authorized by law to declare an emergency; and
- 8. "Electronic means" means a conference among method of
 linking members of a public body remote from one another who are
 linked by interactive telecommunication devices or technology and/or
 or other technology permitting both visual and auditory
 communication between and among members of the public body and/or
 and between and among members of the public body and members of the
 public. During any videoconference meeting conducted utilizing
 electronic means, both the visual and auditory communications
 functions shall attempt to be utilized; and
- 8. "Teleconference" means a conference among members of a

 public body remote from one another who are linked by

 telecommunication devices and/or technology permitting auditory

 communication between and among members of the public body and/or

between and among members of the public body and members of the public.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 25 O.S. 2021, Section 307.1, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 182, O.S.L. 2022 (25 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 307.1), is amended to read as follows:

Section 307.1. A. Except as provided in subsections C and D of this section, a A public body may hold meetings by videoconference utilizing electronic means where each member of the public body is visible and audible to each other and the public through a video monitor, subject to the following:

- 1. a. except as provided for in subparagraph subparagraphs beand c of this paragraph, no less than a quorum of the public body shall be present in person at the physical meeting site as posted on the meeting notice and agenda,
 - b. a virtual charter school approved and sponsored by the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board pursuant to the provisions of Section 3-145.3 3-134 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes shall maintain a quorum of members for the entire duration of the meeting whether using an in-person site, videoconference sites electronic means, or any combination of such sites to achieve a quorum, and

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- c. the board of a community action agency established

 pursuant to Sections 5035 through 5040 of Title 74 of

 the Oklahoma Statutes shall maintain a quorum of

 members for the entire duration of the meeting whether

 using an in-person site, electronic means, or any

 combination of such sites to achieve a quorum, and
- d. each public meeting held by videoconference or teleconference utilizing electronic means shall be recorded either by written, electronic, or other means;
- 2. The meeting notice and agenda prepared in advance of the meeting, as required by law, shall indicate if the meeting will include videoconferencing electronic locations and shall state:
 - a. the location, address, and website or link, or telephone number of each available videoconference physical or electronic site, if applicable, and
 - b. the identity of each member of the public body and the specific <u>physical or electronic</u> site from which each member of the body shall be physically <u>or electronically</u> present and participating in the meeting; <u>and</u>
- 3. After the meeting notice and agenda are prepared and posted, as required by law, no member of the public body shall be allowed to

participate in the meeting from any location other than the specific location posted on the agenda in advance of the meeting;

4. In order to allow the public the maximum opportunity to attend and observe each public official carrying out the duties of the public official, a member or members of a public body desiring to participate in a meeting by videoconference shall participate in the videoconference from a site and room located within the district or political subdivision from which they are elected, appointed, or are sworn to represent;

5. Each site and room where a member of the public body is

present for a meeting by videoconference shall be open and

accessible to the public, and the public shall be allowed into that

site and room. Public bodies may provide additional videoconference

sites as a convenience to the public, but additional sites shall not

be used to exclude or discourage public attendance at any

videoconference site;

6. The public shall be allowed to participate and speak, as allowed by rule or policy set by the public body, in a meeting at the videoconference site in the same manner and to the same extent as the public is allowed to participate or speak at the site of the meeting;

7. Any materials shared electronically between members of the public body, before or during the videoconference, shall also be

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immediately available to the public in the same form and manner as shared with members of the public body; and

- 8. All votes occurring during any meeting conducted using videoconferencing shall occur and be recorded by roll call vote by electronic means unless such remote participation was specifically authorized in the meeting notice.
- B. Except as provided for in subsection E of this section, no public body shall conduct an executive session by videoconference.
- C. Upon the effective date of this act and until February 15, 2022, or until thirty (30) days after the expiration or termination of the state of emergency declared by the Governor to respond to the threat of COVID-19 to the people of this state and the public's peace, health and safety, whichever date first occurs, the provisions of this subsection and subsection D shall operate as law in this state.
- 1. A public body may hold meetings by teleconference or videoconference if each member of the public body is audible or visible to each other and the public, subject to electronic means without a quorum at a physical location open to the public in the following circumstances:

a. for

1. Any meeting conducted by a virtual charter school approved and sponsored by the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board pursuant to the provisions of the Oklahoma Statutes, the;

- 2. Any meeting conducted by the board of a community action agency established pursuant to Sections 5035 through 5040 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes;
- 3. During a declared state of emergency in which the public body is unable to utilize the physical meeting location. A state of emergency declared by an elected official or officials of a political subdivision as authorized by law shall not be a sufficient reason to suspend the use of a physical location open to the public for more than three consecutive meetings unless a state of emergency covering the political subdivision is concurrently declared by the Governor; or
- 4. If the physical location designated on the meeting notice has become unsafe or otherwise inaccessible to the members of the public body and the public due to circumstances including, but not limited to, a gas leak, electrical failure, or structural damage to the physical location.

 The public body shall maintain a quorum of members for the entire
- duration of the meeting whether using an in-person site,

 teleconference, or videoconference electronic means, or any

 combination of such sites to achieve a quorum, and
 - b. if the meeting is held using either teleconference or videoconference capabilities, and at any time the audio connection is disconnected, the meeting shall be

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1	stopped and reconvened once the audio connection is
2	restored;
3	2. The meeting notice and agenda prepared in advance of the
4	meeting, as required by law, shall indicate if the meeting will
5	include teleconferencing or videoconferencing and shall also state:
6	a. each public body member appearing remotely and the
7	method of each member's remote appearance, and
8	b. the identity of the public body member or members who
9	will be physically present at the meeting site, if
10	any;
11	3. After the meeting notice and agenda are prepared and posted
12	as required by law, public body members shall not be permitted to
13	alter their method of attendance; provided, however, those members
14	who were identified as appearing remotely may be permitted to
15	physically appear at the meeting site, if any, for the meeting;
16	4. The public body shall be allowed to participate and speak,
17	as allowed by rule or policy set by the public body, in a meeting
18	which utilizes teleconference or videoconference in the same manner
19	and to the same extent as the public is allowed to participate or
20	speak during a meeting where all public body members are physically
21	present together at the meeting site;
22	5. Any documents or other materials provided to members of the
23	public body or shared electronically between members of the public
24	body during a meeting utilizing teleconferencing or

videoconferencing shall also be immediately available to the public on the website of the public body, if the public body maintains a website; and

6. All votes occurring during any meeting utilizing teleconference or videoconference shall occur and be recorded by roll call votes.

D. Public bodies are permitted to conduct an executive session by teleconference or videoconference. For such executive sessions, no public body member is required to be physically present so long as each public body member is audible or visible to each other. The meeting notice and agenda prepared in advance of the meeting as required by law shall indicate if the executive session will include teleconferencing or videoconferencing and shall also state the identity of each public body member appearing remotely, the method of each member's remote appearance, and whether any member will be physically present at the meeting site, if any, for the executive session.

E. C. The Oklahoma Tax Commission may conduct executive sessions with the taxpayer at issue attending using videoconference technology electronic means to discuss confidential taxpayer matters as provided for in Section 205 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes. During executive sessions, the Commission is required to be physically present while taxpayers may appear using videoconference technology electronic means. The technology selected and utilized

- by the Commission shall ensure taxpayer confidentiality including compliance with safeguards as provided for in Internal Revenue Service Publication 1075.
 - SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 307.2 of Title 25, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

- A. A public body may conduct regular and special meetings utilizing electronic means subject to the following requirements:
- 1. A quorum of members must be physically present in the physical meeting location of the public body as provided in the meeting notice; provided, however, a public body may conduct an emergency meeting utilizing electronic means without a quorum present at the physical location pursuant to Section 307.1 of Title 25 of the Oklahoma Statutes;
- 2. No member of a public body may participate in a regular or special meeting utilizing electronic means for more than one-fourth (1/4) of such meetings in a rolling one-year period;
- 3. A member of a public body participating in a meeting utilizing electronic means shall be confirmed by audio or visual affirmation to the public to be the actual member of the governing body and may only participate from a fixed physical location;
- 4. Documents or other materials provided to members of the public body or shared electronically between members of the public body during a meeting utilizing electronic means shall be made

- immediately available to the public on the website of the public
 body if the public body maintains a website, or through distribution
 or viewing on the site streaming the meeting;
 - 5. The public shall be allowed to participate in meetings conducted utilizing electronic means to the extent such participation is consistent with current law or adopted rules or policy of the public body;

- 6. All votes occurring during any meeting by members utilizing electronic means shall be recorded by roll call vote with visual and auditory confirmation of the member casting the vote;
- 7. Recordings of the meetings conducted through electronic means shall be maintained by the public body until minutes of the proceedings are open to public inspection, including but not limited to posting on a website of the public body, as required by Section 312 of Title 25 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and
- 8. A member of a public body participating in a meeting by electronic means may participate in executive sessions of the public body provided all notice and agenda requirements for the member's remote participation have been met.
- B. To the extent practicable, if a public body maintains a website, has dedicated information technology employees, and has immediate access to a high-speed Internet connection, meetings shall be streamed live on the public body's website, made available by telephonic means, or video of the meeting shall be made available

- through an alternative website. Video of such meetings shall be
 maintained by the public body and available to the public for a

 period of at least seven (7) business days after the adoption of the
 meeting minutes. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply
 if a public body determines that the implementation of this
 subsection would create a significant financial burden to the public
 body.
 - C. Meetings held without a physical meeting place open to the public shall be streamed or otherwise made available to the public at no charge by utilizing electronic means, the website of the public body, the Internet, or any other free subscription digital service or application.
 - D. No private electronic communications concerning public business may occur between members of the public body during a public meeting.
 - E. A public body that makes a good faith effort to comply with the provisions of this section shall be immune from liability for court costs and attorney fees in a civil action brought for a violation of the requirements of this section.
 - SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 2024."

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1	Passed the House of Representatives the 17th day of April, 2024.
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4	Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives
5	Representatives
6	Passed the Senate the day of, 2024.
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1	ENGROSSED SENATE
2	BILL NO. 1055 By: Kidd of the Senate
	and
3	Pae of the House
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6	An Act relating to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act; amending 25 O.S. 2021, Section 307.1, as amended by
7	Section 2, Chapter 182, O.S.L. 2022 (25 O.S. Supp. 2022, Section 307.1), which relates to
8	videoconferences; providing exception for certain quorum requirements for community action agency
9	boards; removing obsolete language; conforming statutory references; providing an effective date;
10	and declaring an emergency.
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13	BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:
14	SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 25 O.S. 2021, Section 307.1, as
15	amended by Section 2, Chapter 182, O.S.L. 2022 (25 O.S. Supp. 2022,
16	Section 307.1), is amended to read as follows:
17	Section 307.1. A. Except as provided in subsections C and D of
18	this section, a A public body may hold meetings by videoconference
19	where each member of the public body is visible and audible to each
20	other and the public through a video monitor, subject to the
21	following:
22	1. a. except as provided for in subparagraph subparagraphs b
23	and c of this paragraph, no less than a quorum of the
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public body shall be present in person at the meeting site as posted on the meeting notice and agenda,

- b. a virtual charter school approved and sponsored by the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board pursuant to the provisions of Section 3-145.3 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes shall maintain a quorum of members for the entire duration of the meeting whether using an in-person site, videoconference sites or any combination of such sites to achieve a quorum, and
- the board of a community action agency established

 pursuant to Sections 5035 through 5040 of Title 74 of

 the Oklahoma Statutes shall maintain a quorum of

 members for the entire duration of the meeting whether

 using an in-person site, videoconference sites or any

 combination of such sites to achieve a quorum, and
- d. each public meeting held by videoconference or teleconference shall be recorded either by written, electronic, or other means;
- 2. The meeting notice and agenda prepared in advance of the meeting, as required by law, shall indicate if the meeting will include videoconferencing locations and shall state:
 - a. the location, address, and telephone number of each available videoconference site, and

- b. the identity of each member of the public body and the specific site from which each member of the body shall be physically present and participating in the meeting;
- 3. After the meeting notice and agenda are prepared and posted, as required by law, no member of the public body shall be allowed to participate in the meeting from any location other than the specific location posted on the agenda in advance of the meeting;
- 4. In order to allow the public the maximum opportunity to attend and observe each public official carrying out the duties of the public official, a member or members of a public body desiring to participate in a meeting by videoconference shall participate in the videoconference from a site and room located within the district or political subdivision from which they are elected, appointed, or are sworn to represent;
- 5. Each site and room where a member of the public body is present for a meeting by videoconference shall be open and accessible to the public, and the public shall be allowed into that site and room. Public bodies may provide additional videoconference sites as a convenience to the public, but additional sites shall not be used to exclude or discourage public attendance at any videoconference site;
- 6. The public shall be allowed to participate and speak, as allowed by rule or policy set by the public body, in a meeting at

the videoconference site in the same manner and to the same extent as the public is allowed to participate or speak at the site of the meeting;

- 7. Any materials shared electronically between members of the public body, before or during the videoconference, shall also be immediately available to the public in the same form and manner as shared with members of the public body; and
- 8. All votes occurring during any meeting conducted using videoconferencing shall occur and be recorded by roll call vote.
- B. Except as provided for in subsection \pm \underline{C} of this section, no public body shall conduct an executive session by videoconference.
- C. Upon the effective date of this act and until February 15, 2022, or until thirty (30) days after the expiration or termination of the state of emergency declared by the Governor to respond to the threat of COVID-19 to the people of this state and the public's peace, health and safety, whichever date first occurs, the provisions of this subsection and subsection D shall operate as law in this state.
- 1. A public body may hold meetings by teleconference or videoconference if each member of the public body is audible or visible to each other and the public, subject to the following:
 - the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board pursuant to
 the provisions of the Oklahoma Statutes, the public

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body shall maintain a quorum of members for the entire duration of the meeting whether using an in-person site, teleconference, or videoconference or any combination of such sites to achieve a quorum, and if the meeting is held using either teleconference or videoconference capabilities, and at any time the audio connection is disconnected, the meeting shall be stopped and reconvened once the audio connection is restored;

2. The meeting notice and agenda prepared in advance of the meeting, as required by law, shall indicate if the meeting will include teleconferencing or videoconferencing and shall also state:

a. each public body member appearing remotely and the method of each member's remote appearance, and

b. the identity of the public body member or members who will be physically present at the meeting site, if any;

3. After the meeting notice and agenda are prepared and posted as required by law, public body members shall not be permitted to alter their method of attendance; provided, however, those members who were identified as appearing remotely may be permitted to physically appear at the meeting site, if any, for the meeting;

4. The public body shall be allowed to participate and speak,

as allowed by rule or policy set by the public body, in a meeting

which utilizes teleconference or videoconference in the same manner and to the same extent as the public is allowed to participate or speak during a meeting where all public body members are physically present together at the meeting site;

5. Any documents or other materials provided to members of the public body or shared electronically between members of the public body during a meeting utilizing teleconferencing or videoconferencing shall also be immediately available to the public on the website of the public body, if the public body maintains a website; and

6. All votes occurring during any meeting utilizing teleconference or videoconference shall occur and be recorded by roll call votes.

D. Public bodies are permitted to conduct an executive session by teleconference or videoconference. For such executive sessions, no public body member is required to be physically present so long as each public body member is audible or visible to each other. The meeting notice and agenda prepared in advance of the meeting as required by law shall indicate if the executive session will include teleconferencing or videoconferencing and shall also state the identity of each public body member appearing remotely, the method of each member's remote appearance, and whether any member will be physically present at the meeting site, if any, for the executive session.

1	E. The Oklahoma Tax Commission may conduct executive sessions
2	with the taxpayer at issue attending using videoconference
3	technology to discuss confidential taxpayer matters as provided for
4	in Section 205 of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes. During
5	executive sessions, the Commission is required to be physically
6	present while taxpayers may appear using videoconference technology.
7	The technology selected and utilized by the Commission shall ensure
8	taxpayer confidentiality including compliance with safeguards as
9	provided for in Internal Revenue Service Publication 1075.
10	SECTION 6. This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.
11	SECTION 7. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
12	of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
13	declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
14	be in full force from and after its passage and approval.
15	Passed the Senate the 21st day of March, 2023.
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17	Presiding Officer of the Senate
18	riesiding Officer of the Senate
19	Passed the House of Representatives the day of,
20	2023.
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22	Presiding Officer of the House
23	of Representatives
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ENGR. S. B. NO. 1055