



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

***Raised Bill No. 6651***

LCO No. 5621



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:  
(GAE)

***AN ACT RESPONDING TO ISSUES RELATED TO COVID-19 AND  
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) A public agency may hold  
2 any meeting remotely by using a conference call, videoconference or  
3 other technology, provided (1) the public has the ability to view or listen  
4 to the meeting simultaneously with its occurrence, using telephone,  
5 video or other technology, but excluding any portion of the meeting that  
6 is an executive session; (2) any such meeting is recorded or transcribed,  
7 excluding any portion of the meeting that is an executive session, and  
8 such recording or transcript is posted on the agency's Internet web site  
9 not later than seven days after the meeting, and made available in the  
10 agency's office or regular place of business within a reasonable period  
11 of time; (3) the notice and agenda for such meeting is posted on the  
12 agency's Internet web site and includes information about what  
13 technology will be used for the meeting and by what method the public  
14 can access the meeting; (4) any materials relevant to matters on the  
15 agenda, including, but not limited to, materials related to specific

16 applications, if applicable, are submitted to the agency a minimum of  
17 twenty-four hours prior to the meeting and posted on the agency's  
18 Internet web site for public inspection prior to, during and after the  
19 meeting, and any exhibits to be submitted by members of the public are,  
20 to the extent feasible, submitted to the agency a minimum of twenty-  
21 four hours prior to the meeting and posted on the agency's Internet web  
22 site for public inspection prior to, during and after the meeting; and (5)  
23 any person participating in any such meeting clearly states his or her  
24 name and title, if applicable, each time before speaking.

25 (b) The provisions of this section shall not be construed to require the  
26 posting of any record that is otherwise exempt from disclosure under  
27 any provision of the general statutes.

28 Sec. 2. Section 1-225 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
29 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

30 (a) As used in this subsection, "open to the public" includes, but is not  
31 limited to, a remote meeting held pursuant to section 1 of this act. The  
32 meetings of all public agencies, except executive sessions, [as defined in  
33 subdivision (6) of section 1-200,] shall be open to the public. The votes  
34 of each member of any such public agency upon any issue before such  
35 public agency shall be reduced to writing and made available for public  
36 inspection within forty-eight hours and shall also be recorded in the  
37 minutes of the session at which taken. Not later than seven days after  
38 the date of the session to which such minutes refer, such minutes shall  
39 be available for public inspection and posted on such public agency's  
40 Internet web site, if available, except that no public agency of a political  
41 subdivision of the state shall be required to post such minutes on an  
42 Internet web site unless conducting a remote meeting pursuant to  
43 section 1 of this act. Each public agency shall make, keep and maintain  
44 a record of the proceedings of its meetings.

45 (b) Each such public agency of the state shall file not later than  
46 January thirty-first of each year in the office of the Secretary of the State  
47 the schedule of the regular meetings of such public agency for the

48 ensuing year and shall post such schedule on such public agency's  
49 Internet web site, if available, except that such requirements shall not  
50 apply to the General Assembly, either house thereof or to any committee  
51 thereof. Any other provision of the Freedom of Information Act  
52 notwithstanding, the General Assembly at the commencement of each  
53 regular session in the odd-numbered years, shall adopt, as part of its  
54 joint rules, rules to provide notice to the public of its regular, special,  
55 emergency or interim committee meetings. The chairperson or secretary  
56 of any such public agency of any political subdivision of the state shall  
57 file, not later than January thirty-first of each year, with the clerk of such  
58 subdivision the schedule of regular meetings of such public agency for  
59 the ensuing year, and no such meeting of any such public agency shall  
60 be held sooner than thirty days after such schedule has been filed. The  
61 chief executive officer of any multitown district or agency shall file, not  
62 later than January thirty-first of each year, with the clerk of each  
63 municipal member of such district or agency, the schedule of regular  
64 meetings of such public agency for the ensuing year, and no such  
65 meeting of any such public agency shall be held sooner than thirty days  
66 after such schedule has been filed.

67 (c) The agenda of the regular meetings of every public agency, except  
68 for the General Assembly, shall be available to the public and shall be  
69 filed, not less than twenty-four hours before the meetings to which they  
70 refer, (1) in such agency's regular office or place of business, and (2) in  
71 the office of the Secretary of the State for any such public agency of the  
72 state, in the office of the clerk of such subdivision for any public agency  
73 of a political subdivision of the state or in the office of the clerk of each  
74 municipal member of any multitown district or agency. For any such  
75 public agency of the state, such agenda shall be posted on the public  
76 agency's and the Secretary of the State's web sites. Any such agenda of  
77 a remote meeting shall comply with the requirements of section 1 of this  
78 act. Upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of a public  
79 agency present and voting, any subsequent business not included in  
80 such filed agendas may be considered and acted upon at such meetings.

81 (d) Notice of each special meeting of every public agency, except for

82 the General Assembly, either house thereof or any committee thereof,  
83 shall be posted not less than twenty-four hours before the meeting to  
84 which such notice refers on the public agency's Internet web site, if  
85 available, and given not less than twenty-four hours prior to the time of  
86 such meeting by filing a notice of the time and place thereof in the office  
87 of the Secretary of the State for any such public agency of the state, in  
88 the office of the clerk of such subdivision for any public agency of a  
89 political subdivision of the state and in the office of the clerk of each  
90 municipal member for any multitown district or agency. The secretary  
91 or clerk shall cause any notice received under this section to be posted  
92 in his office. Such notice shall be given not less than twenty-four hours  
93 prior to the time of the special meeting; provided, in case of emergency,  
94 except for the General Assembly, either house thereof or any committee  
95 thereof, any such special meeting may be held without complying with  
96 the foregoing requirement for the filing of notice but a copy of the  
97 minutes of every such emergency special meeting adequately setting  
98 forth the nature of the emergency and the proceedings occurring at such  
99 meeting shall be filed with the Secretary of the State, the clerk of such  
100 political subdivision, or the clerk of each municipal member of such  
101 multitown district or agency, as the case may be, not later than seventy-  
102 two hours following the holding of such meeting. The notice shall  
103 specify the time and place of the special meeting and the business to be  
104 transacted, and if to be held remotely, shall comply with the  
105 requirements of section 1 of this act. No other business shall be  
106 considered at such meetings by such public agency. In addition, such  
107 written notice shall be delivered to the usual place of abode of each  
108 member of the public agency or by electronic means at an address  
109 designated by such member, so that the same is received prior to such  
110 special meeting. The requirement of delivery of such written notice may  
111 be dispensed with as to any member who at or prior to the time the  
112 meeting convenes files with the clerk or secretary of the public agency a  
113 written waiver of delivery of such notice. Such waiver may be given [by  
114 telegram] electronically. The requirement of delivery of such written  
115 notice may also be dispensed with as to any member who is actually  
116 present at the meeting at the time it convenes. Nothing in this section

117 shall be construed to prohibit any agency from adopting more stringent  
118 notice requirements.

119 (e) No member of the public shall be required, as a condition to  
120 attendance at a meeting of any such body, to register the member's  
121 name, or furnish other information, or complete a questionnaire or  
122 otherwise fulfill any condition precedent to the member's attendance.

123 (f) A public agency may hold an executive session [, as defined in  
124 subdivision (6) of section 1-200,] upon an affirmative vote of two-thirds  
125 of the members of such body present and voting, taken at a public  
126 meeting or a remote meeting held pursuant to section 1 of this act and  
127 stating the reasons for such executive session. [, as defined in section 1-  
128 200.]

129 (g) In determining the time within which or by when a notice, agenda,  
130 record of votes or minutes of a special meeting or an emergency special  
131 meeting are required to be filed under this section, Saturdays, Sundays,  
132 legal holidays and any day on which the office of the agency, the  
133 Secretary of the State or the clerk of the applicable political subdivision  
134 or the clerk of each municipal member of any multitown district or  
135 agency, as the case may be, is closed, shall be excluded.

136 Sec. 3. Section 1-226 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
137 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

138 (a) At any meeting of a public agency which is open to the public,  
139 pursuant to the provisions of section 1-225, as amended by this act,  
140 proceedings of such public agency may be recorded, photographed,  
141 broadcast or recorded for broadcast, subject to such rules as such public  
142 agency may have prescribed prior to such meeting, by any person or by  
143 any newspaper, radio broadcasting company or television broadcasting  
144 company, provided any remote meeting shall be available for viewing  
145 and recorded in accordance with section 1 of this act. Any recording,  
146 radio, television or photographic equipment may be so located within  
147 the meeting room as to permit the recording, broadcasting either by  
148 radio, or by television, or by both, or the photographing of the

149 proceedings of such public agency. The photographer or broadcaster  
150 and its personnel, or the person recording the proceedings, shall be  
151 required to handle the photographing, broadcast or recording as  
152 inconspicuously as possible and in such manner as not to disturb the  
153 proceedings of the public agency. As used [herein] in this section, the  
154 term [television shall include] "television" includes the transmission of  
155 visual and audible signals by cable.

156 (b) Any such public agency may adopt rules governing such  
157 recording, photography or the use of such broadcasting equipment for  
158 radio and television stations but, (1) in the absence of the adoption of  
159 such rules and regulations by such public agency prior to the meeting,  
160 such recording, photography or the use of such radio and television  
161 equipment shall be permitted as provided in subsection (a) of this  
162 section, and (2) any such rules and regulations concerning remote  
163 meetings shall comply with the requirements of section 1 of this act.

164 (c) Whenever there is a violation or the probability of a violation of  
165 subsections (a) and (b) of this section the superior court, or a judge  
166 thereof, for the judicial district in which such meeting is taking place  
167 shall, upon application made by affidavit that such violation is taking  
168 place or that there is reasonable probability that such violation will take  
169 place, issue a temporary injunction against any such violation without  
170 notice to the adverse party to show cause why such injunction should  
171 not be granted and without the plaintiff's giving bond. Any person or  
172 public agency so enjoined may immediately appear and be heard by the  
173 court or judge granting such injunction with regard to dissolving or  
174 modifying the same and, after hearing the parties and upon a  
175 determination that such meeting should not be open to the public, said  
176 court or judge may dissolve or modify the injunction. Any action taken  
177 by a judge upon any such application shall be immediately certified to  
178 the court to which such proceedings are returnable.

179 Sec. 4. Section 1-228 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
180 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

181 The public agency may adjourn any regular or special meeting to a  
182 time and place specified in the order of adjournment. Less than a  
183 quorum may so adjourn from time to time. If all members are absent  
184 from any regular meeting the clerk or the secretary of such body may  
185 declare the meeting adjourned to a stated time and place and shall cause  
186 a written notice of the adjournment to be given in the same manner as  
187 provided in section 1-225, as amended by this act, for special meetings,  
188 unless such notice is waived as provided for special meetings or as  
189 provided in section 1 of this act, for remote meetings. A copy of the order  
190 or notice of adjournment shall be conspicuously posted on or near the  
191 door of the place where the regular or special meeting was held, or in a  
192 conspicuous place on the Internet web site of the public agency, within  
193 twenty-four hours after the time of the adjournment. When an order of  
194 adjournment of any meeting fails to state the hour at which the  
195 adjourned meeting is to be held, it shall be held at the hour specified for  
196 regular meetings, by ordinance, resolution, by law or other rule.

197 Sec. 5. Section 1-200 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
198 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

199 As used in this chapter and section 1 of this act, the following words  
200 and phrases shall have the following meanings, except where such  
201 terms are used in a context which clearly indicates the contrary:

202 (1) "Public agency" or "agency" means:

203 (A) Any executive, administrative or legislative office of the state or  
204 any political subdivision of the state and any state or town agency, any  
205 department, institution, bureau, board, commission, authority or official  
206 of the state or of any city, town, borough, municipal corporation, school  
207 district, regional district or other district or other political subdivision of  
208 the state, including any committee of, or created by, any such office,  
209 subdivision, agency, department, institution, bureau, board,  
210 commission, authority or official, and also includes any judicial office,  
211 official, or body or committee thereof but only with respect to its or their  
212 administrative functions, and for purposes of this subparagraph,

213 "judicial office" includes, but is not limited to, the Division of Public  
214 Defender Services;

215 (B) Any person to the extent such person is deemed to be the  
216 functional equivalent of a public agency pursuant to law; or

217 (C) Any "implementing agency", as defined in section 32-222.

218 (2) "Meeting" means any hearing or other proceeding of a public  
219 agency, any convening or assembly of a quorum of a multimember  
220 public agency, and any communication by or to a quorum of a  
221 multimember public agency, whether in person or by means of  
222 electronic equipment, to discuss or act upon a matter over which the  
223 public agency has supervision, control, jurisdiction or advisory power.  
224 "Meeting" does not include: Any meeting of a personnel search  
225 committee for executive level employment candidates; any chance  
226 meeting, or a social meeting neither planned nor intended for the  
227 purpose of discussing matters relating to official business; strategy or  
228 negotiations with respect to collective bargaining; a caucus of members  
229 of a single political party notwithstanding that such members also  
230 constitute a quorum of a public agency; an administrative or staff  
231 meeting of a single-member public agency; and communication limited  
232 to notice of meetings of any public agency or the agendas thereof. A  
233 quorum of the members of a public agency who are present at any event  
234 which has been noticed and conducted as a meeting of another public  
235 agency under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act shall not  
236 be deemed to be holding a meeting of the public agency of which they  
237 are members as a result of their presence at such event.

238 (3) "Caucus" means (A) a convening or assembly of the enrolled  
239 members of a single political party who are members of a public agency  
240 within the state or a political subdivision, or (B) the members of a  
241 multimember public agency, which members constitute a majority of  
242 the membership of the agency, or the other members of the agency who  
243 constitute a minority of the membership of the agency, who register  
244 their intention to be considered a majority caucus or minority caucus, as

245 the case may be, for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act,  
246 provided (i) the registration is made with the office of the Secretary of  
247 the State for any such public agency of the state, in the office of the clerk  
248 of a political subdivision of the state for any public agency of a political  
249 subdivision of the state, or in the office of the clerk of each municipal  
250 member of any multitown district or agency, (ii) no member is  
251 registered in more than one caucus at any one time, (iii) no such  
252 member's registration is rescinded during the member's remaining term  
253 of office, and (iv) a member may remain a registered member of the  
254 majority caucus or minority caucus regardless of whether the member  
255 changes his or her party affiliation under chapter 143.

256 (4) "Person" means natural person, partnership, corporation, limited  
257 liability company, association or society.

258 (5) "Public records or files" means any recorded data or information  
259 relating to the conduct of the public's business prepared, owned, used,  
260 received or retained by a public agency, or to which a public agency is  
261 entitled to receive a copy by law or contract under section 1-218,  
262 whether such data or information be handwritten, typed, tape-recorded,  
263 printed, photostated, photographed or recorded by any other method.

264 (6) "Executive sessions" means a meeting of a public agency at which  
265 the public is excluded for one or more of the following purposes: (A)  
266 Discussion concerning the appointment, employment, performance,  
267 evaluation, health or dismissal of a public officer or employee, provided  
268 that such individual may require that discussion be held at an open  
269 meeting; (B) strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims or  
270 pending litigation to which the public agency or a member thereof,  
271 because of the member's conduct as a member of such agency, is a party  
272 until such litigation or claim has been finally adjudicated or otherwise  
273 settled; (C) matters concerning security strategy or the deployment of  
274 security personnel, or devices affecting public security; (D) discussion  
275 of the selection of a site or the lease, sale or purchase of real estate by the  
276 state or a political subdivision of the state when publicity regarding such  
277 site, lease, sale, purchase or construction would adversely impact the

278 price of such site, lease, sale, purchase or construction until such time as  
279 all of the property has been acquired or all proceedings or transactions  
280 concerning same have been terminated or abandoned; and (E)  
281 discussion of any matter which would result in the disclosure of public  
282 records or the information contained therein described in subsection (b)  
283 of section 1-210.

284 (7) "Personnel search committee" means a body appointed by a public  
285 agency, whose sole purpose is to recommend to the appointing agency  
286 a candidate or candidates for an executive-level employment position.  
287 Members of a "personnel search committee" shall not be considered in  
288 determining whether there is a quorum of the appointing or any other  
289 public agency.

290 (8) "Pending claim" means a written notice to an agency which sets  
291 forth a demand for legal relief or which asserts a legal right stating the  
292 intention to institute an action in an appropriate forum if such relief or  
293 right is not granted.

294 (9) "Pending litigation" means (A) a written notice to an agency which  
295 sets forth a demand for legal relief or which asserts a legal right stating  
296 the intention to institute an action before a court if such relief or right is  
297 not granted by the agency; (B) the service of a complaint against an  
298 agency returnable to a court which seeks to enforce or implement legal  
299 relief or a legal right; or (C) the agency's consideration of action to  
300 enforce or implement legal relief or a legal right.

301 (10) "Freedom of Information Act" means this chapter.

302 (11) "Governmental function" means the administration or  
303 management of a program of a public agency, which program has been  
304 authorized by law to be administered or managed by a person, where  
305 (A) the person receives funding from the public agency for  
306 administering or managing the program, (B) the public agency is  
307 involved in or regulates to a significant extent such person's  
308 administration or management of the program, whether or not such  
309 involvement or regulation is direct, pervasive, continuous or day-to-

310 day, and (C) the person participates in the formulation of governmental  
311 policies or decisions in connection with the administration or  
312 management of the program and such policies or decisions bind the  
313 public agency. "Governmental function" shall not include the mere  
314 provision of goods or services to a public agency without the delegated  
315 responsibility to administer or manage a program of a public agency.

316 Sec. 6. Subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 1-206 of the general  
317 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
318 (*Effective from passage*):

319 (b) (1) (A) Any person denied the right to inspect or copy records  
320 under section 1-210 or wrongfully denied the right to attend any  
321 meeting of a public agency or denied any other right conferred by the  
322 Freedom of Information Act may appeal therefrom to the Freedom of  
323 Information Commission, by filing a notice of appeal with said  
324 commission. [A] Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this  
325 subdivision, a notice of appeal shall be filed not later than thirty days  
326 after such denial, except in the case of an unnoticed or secret meeting,  
327 in which case the appeal shall be filed not later than thirty days after the  
328 person filing the appeal receives actual or constructive notice that such  
329 meeting was held. For purposes of this subsection, such notice of appeal  
330 shall be deemed to be filed on the date it is received by said commission  
331 or on the date it is postmarked, if received more than thirty days after  
332 the date of the denial from which such appeal is taken. Upon receipt of  
333 such notice, the commission shall serve upon all parties, by certified or  
334 registered mail, a copy of such notice together with any other notice or  
335 order of such commission. In the case of the denial of a request to inspect  
336 or copy records contained in a public employee's personnel or medical  
337 file or similar file under subsection (c) of section 1-214, the commission  
338 shall include with its notice or order an order requiring the public  
339 agency to notify any employee whose records are the subject of an  
340 appeal, and the employee's collective bargaining representative, if any,  
341 of the commission's proceedings and, if any such employee or collective  
342 bargaining representative has filed an objection under said subsection  
343 (c), the agency shall provide the required notice to such employee and

344 collective bargaining representative by certified mail, return receipt  
345 requested or by hand delivery with a signed receipt. A public employee  
346 whose personnel or medical file or similar file is the subject of an appeal  
347 under this subsection may intervene as a party in the proceedings on the  
348 matter before the commission. [Said] Except as provided in  
349 subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, said commission shall, after due  
350 notice to the parties, hear and decide the appeal within one year after  
351 the filing of the notice of appeal. The commission shall adopt regulations  
352 in accordance with chapter 54, establishing criteria for those appeals  
353 which shall be privileged in their assignment for hearing. Any such  
354 appeal shall be heard not later than thirty days after receipt of a notice  
355 of appeal and decided not later than sixty days after the hearing. If a  
356 notice of appeal concerns an announced agency decision to meet in  
357 executive session or an ongoing agency practice of meeting in executive  
358 sessions, for a stated purpose, the commission or a member or members  
359 of the commission designated by its chairperson shall serve notice upon  
360 the parties in accordance with this section and hold a preliminary  
361 hearing on the appeal not later than seventy-two hours after receipt of  
362 the notice, provided such notice shall be given to the parties at least  
363 forty-eight hours prior to such hearing. During such preliminary  
364 hearing, the commission shall take evidence and receive testimony from  
365 the parties. If after the preliminary hearing the commission finds  
366 probable cause to believe that the agency decision or practice is in  
367 violation of sections 1-200 and 1-225, as amended by this act, the agency  
368 shall not meet in executive session for such purpose until the  
369 commission decides the appeal. If probable cause is found by the  
370 commission, it shall conduct a final hearing on the appeal and render its  
371 decision not later than five days after the completion of the preliminary  
372 hearing. Such decision shall specify the commission's findings of fact  
373 and conclusions of law.

374 (B) On and after the effective date of this section until December 31,  
375 2021, any appeal pending on or filed on or after the effective date of this  
376 section until December 31, 2021, (i) shall not be subject to the deadlines  
377 for filing an appeal as set forth in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision,

378 provided any such appeal is filed before December 31, 2021, and (ii)  
379 shall not be subject to the requirement that the commission decide such  
380 appeal within one year as set forth in subparagraph (A) of this  
381 subdivision.

382       Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) As used in this section, "COVID-  
383 19" means the respiratory disease designated by the World Health  
384 Organization on February 11, 2020, as coronavirus 2019, and any related  
385 mutation thereof recognized by said organization as a communicable  
386 respiratory disease. Notwithstanding any provision of the general  
387 statutes, on and after the effective date of this section until December 31,  
388 2021, any department head, as defined in section 4-5 of the general  
389 statutes, may issue any directive, rule, guidance or order modifying or  
390 suspending any regulatory requirements adopted by the department  
391 head that the department head deems necessary to reduce the spread of  
392 COVID-19 and to protect the public health.

393       Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) As used in this section, "COVID-  
394 19" means the respiratory disease designated by the World Health  
395 Organization on February 11, 2020, as coronavirus 2019, and any related  
396 mutation thereof recognized by said organization as a communicable  
397 respiratory disease. Notwithstanding any provision of title 7 or 9 of the  
398 general statutes, section 10-46 of the general statutes, any special act,  
399 municipal charter, ordinance, bylaw or resolution, or any plan of  
400 reapportionment approved pursuant to section 10-63l of the general  
401 statutes, in any municipality where (1) the town meeting, annual town  
402 meeting, district meeting or other meeting of electors or voters is the  
403 authority for appointing or electing members or officials to any  
404 municipal or regional governmental office, board, agency, commission  
405 or quasi-municipal corporation, and (2) such appointments require a  
406 district or town meeting or election to be held that is scheduled to occur  
407 after June 30, 2021, but before December 31, 2021, for the purposes of  
408 electing, nominating or appointing such members or officials, the  
409 officials responsible for administering any such district or town meeting  
410 or election shall use their best efforts to conduct such proceedings using  
411 remote means in accordance with the provisions of section 1 of this act,

412 while also implementing measures to safeguard the integrity of the  
413 process. If such officials determine that any such district or town  
414 meeting or election cannot be conducted safely and accurately by  
415 remote means, such officials shall take all reasonable measures to  
416 protect the public health, including consulting with local or state public  
417 health officials and conducting such meeting or election in a way that  
418 significantly reduces the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

419       Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section,  
420 "notary public" means a person commissioned by the Secretary of the  
421 State pursuant to section 3-94b of the general statutes or a commissioner  
422 of the Superior Court as described in section 51-85 of the general  
423 statutes. Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, on and  
424 after the effective date of this section until December 31, 2021, any  
425 notarial act that is required under Connecticut law to be performed by  
426 a notary public may be performed using an electronic device or process  
427 that allows a notary public and a remotely located individual to  
428 communicate with each other simultaneously by sight and sound,  
429 provided the following conditions are met:

430       (1) The individual seeking the notarial act from a notary public, if not  
431 personally known to the notary public, shall present satisfactory  
432 evidence of identity, as defined in section 3-94a of the general statutes,  
433 while connected to the electronic device or process, and may not  
434 transmit such evidence prior to or after the transaction;

435       (2) The electronic device or process used by the notary public shall be  
436 capable of recording the complete notarial act and such recording shall  
437 be made and retained by the notary public for not less than ten years;

438       (3) The individual seeking the signatory act shall affirmatively  
439 represent using the electronic device or process that he or she is  
440 physically situated in this state;

441       (4) The individual seeking the signatory act shall transmit by fax or  
442 electronic means a legible copy of the signed document directly to the  
443 notary public on the same date it was executed;

444 (5) The notary public may notarize the transmitted copy of the  
 445 document and transmit such copy to the individual seeking the  
 446 signatory act by fax or electronic means; and

447 (6) The notary public may repeat the notarization of the original  
 448 signed document as of the date of execution, provided the notary public  
 449 receives such original signed document, together with the electronically  
 450 notarized copy, within thirty days after the date of execution.

451 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions (1) to (6),  
 452 inclusive, of subsection (a) of this section, only an attorney admitted to  
 453 practice law in this state and in good standing may remotely administer  
 454 a self-proving affidavit to a will pursuant to section 45a-285 of the  
 455 general statutes or conduct a real estate closing as required under  
 456 section 51-88a of the general statutes. Any witnessing requirement for a  
 457 will may be satisfied remotely through the use of an electronic device or  
 458 process if it is completed under the supervision of a commissioner of the  
 459 Superior Court. The supervising commissioner shall certify that he or  
 460 she supervised the remote witnessing of the will.

461 (c) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, no witness  
 462 shall be required for any document requiring a notarial act, other than a  
 463 will, as set forth in subsection (b) of this section.

464 (d) All remotely notarized documents pertaining to real property  
 465 shall be accepted for recording on the land records by all town clerks. A  
 466 one-page certification confirming the use of remote notarization  
 467 procedures shall be attached to each remotely notarized document  
 468 submitted for recording on the land records in this state.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	1-225
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	1-226
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	1-228
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	1-200

Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	1-206(b)(1)
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To extend the duration of various provisions of executive orders concerning Freedom of Information requirements for meetings and appeals, regulatory requirements, municipal nominations and notaries.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*