

1 Introduced by Senate Committee on Government Operations

2 Referred to Committee on

3 Date:

4 Subject: General provisions; public information; open meeting law; temporary  
5 provisions

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to temporarily  
7 authorize municipal public bodies to electronically post meeting notices and  
8 agendas in lieu of two designated public locations within the municipality.

9 This bill also proposes to temporarily authorize municipalities to hold any  
10 municipal quasi-judicial proceeding through electronic means and suspend  
11 requirements for certain in-person inspections of property subject to appeal.

12

13 An act relating to temporary municipal meeting provisions in response to  
14 the COVID-19 outbreak

15 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

16 Sec. 1. OPEN MEETING LAW; TEMPORARY AUTHORITY;

17 ELECTRONIC POSTING OF MEETING NOTICES AND

18 AGENDAS

1        Notwithstanding subdivisions (c)(2) and (d)(1)(B) of 1 V.S.A § 312, during  
2        a declared state of emergency under 20 V.S.A. chapter 1 due to COVID-19, a  
3        municipal public body may post any meeting agenda or notice of a special  
4        meeting in two designated electronic locations in lieu of the two designated  
5        public places in the municipality. A municipal public body shall post the  
6        notice or agenda in or near the municipal clerk's office and shall provide a  
7        copy of each notice or agenda to the newspapers of general circulation for the  
8        municipality.

9        Sec. 2. MUNICIPAL QUASI-JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS; TEMPORARY  
10        SUSPENSION OF IN-PERSON HEARING AND INSPECTION  
11        REQUIREMENTS

12        (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, during a declared  
13        state of emergency under 20 V.S.A. chapter 1 due to COVID-19, a  
14        municipality is authorized to conduct any municipal quasi-judicial proceeding  
15        through electronic means, provided that the municipality complies with all  
16        other requirements for the conduct of the proceeding. The municipal  
17        corporation shall not be required to designate a physical location for the  
18        proceeding.

19        (b) Notwithstanding 32 V.S.A. § 4404(c), during a declared state of  
20        emergency under 20 V.S.A. chapter 1 due to COVID-19, a board of civil

1 authority shall not be required to physically inspect any property that is the  
2 subject of an appeal.

3 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

4 This act shall take effect on passage.