



Office of
Representative Hannah E. Kane
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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House and Senate agree to two-year extension authorizing municipalities to continue holding remote and hybrid meetings
Bill is now on Governor's desk for her review and signature

BOSTON – Cities and towns would be allowed to continue holding public meetings in a remote or hybrid format for another two years, under legislation enacted by the House and Senate on March 20.

State Representative Hannah Kane (R-Shrewsbury) noted that House Bill 62, *An Act relative to extending certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the state of emergency*, provides communities with the option of holding virtual public meetings until June 30, 2027. The current law authorizing such meetings, which was first passed at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and later extended, is due to expire on March 31.

Representative Kane said the legislation approved by the House and Senate gives municipalities the flexibility to conduct meetings in alternative formats that have helped to enhance public participation and promote greater transparency of government deliberations over the last five years.

In addition to allowing the continued use of remote and hybrid meetings by select boards, school committees, and other public bodies, House Bill 62 extends pandemic-era provisions reducing the number of individuals needed to constitute a Town Meeting quorum. The bill also allows for representative Town Meetings to be conducted with remote participation. Both of these provisions are subject to the same June 30, 2027 extension.

Representative Kane noted that additional bills have been filed for consideration in the 2025-2026 legislative session that would make hybrid meetings a permanent option for cities and towns. The Massachusetts Municipal Association has indicated that one of its priorities for the current session is to make these types of meetings permanent.

House Bill 62 is now on Governor Maura Healey's desk for her review. She has until March 30 to sign the extensions into law.

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