



REPORT FOR ACTION

One Year Extension of Electronic Meeting Rules

Date: September 4, 2020

To: Board of Health

From: City Clerk

Wards: All

SUMMARY

At its meeting of July 28 and 29, 2020, City Council adopted Item EX15.21, and in so doing has authorized its local boards to extend or adopt remote electronic meeting rules for a period of one year following the later of the termination of the Provincial emergency and the termination of the municipal emergency related to the issue of COVID-19.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Clerk recommends that:

1. The Board of Health amend By-law 2-2019 and adopt the draft bill in Attachment 1 to extend the remote electronic participation rules for a period ending one year following the termination of the COVID-19 emergency declaration under section 4 of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial impacts resulting from the adoption of the recommendation in this report.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of May 7, 2020, the Board of Health amended its Procedures By-law to permit a member participating electronically to be counted for quorum and to attend a closed session only applied during a declared emergency.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.HL16.1>

At its meeting of July 28 and 29, 2020, City Council authorized its local boards to extend or adopt remote electronic meeting rules for a period of one year following the later of the termination of the Provincial emergency or the termination of the municipal emergency related to COVID-19.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.EX15.21>

COMMENTS

Bill 197, the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020 has amended the City of Toronto Act, 2006 to permit City Council and its local Boards to amend their procedures to permit a member of City Council, of a local board of the City or of a committee of either of them, to participate electronically in a meeting at any time as follows:

- a member who is participating electronically in a meeting may be counted in determining whether or not a quorum of members is present at any point in time; and
- a member can participate electronically in a meeting that is open or closed to the public.

The previous provisions that allowed a member participating electronically to be counted for quorum and to attend a closed session only applied during a declared emergency. Those provisions have been repealed and replaced with standing provisions that permit electronic participation in these circumstances at any time.

City Council has authorized its local Boards to extend or adopt these remote electronic meeting rules for a period of one year following the later of the termination of the Provincial emergency or the termination of the municipal emergency.

The Ontario government terminated the provincial declaration of emergency in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic emergency on July 24, 2020.

As of August 11, 2020, the municipal emergency remains in effect.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

City Clerk

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Draft Bill to amend the Board of Health By-law 2-2019 to extend remote electronic participation in Board meetings beyond the period of an emergency