

# COMMITTEE ON OPEN GOVERNMENT

STATE OF NEW YORK  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SHOSHANAH BEWLAY

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Whom it May Concern

FROM: Shoshanah Bewlay  
Executive Director, Committee on Open Government

RE: *Chapter 417 of the Laws of 2021 “Notwithstanding” Elements of Public Officers Law  
Article 7 “The Open Meetings Law” through the Expiration or Termination of the State  
Disaster Emergency*

DATE: January 18, 2022

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**On January 14, 2022, Governor Kathy Hochul signed into Law Chapter 1 of the Laws of 2022** amending Chapter 417 of the Laws of 2021 to authorize any public body (as that term is defined by [§ 102\(2\) of the Open Meetings Law](#)) “to meet and take such action authorized by law without permitting in public in-person access to meetings and authorize such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed.”

Chapter 1 takes effect immediately and shall expire and be deemed repealed upon the expiration or termination of the state disaster emergency declared pursuant to [Governor Hochul’s Executive Order 11](#) or any extension or modification thereof. As of the date of this memo, Executive Order 11.2 had extended Executive Order 11 through February 15, 2022.