

COMMITTEE ON OPEN GOVERNMENT

STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ONE COMMERCE PLAZA
99 WASHINGTON AVENUE
ALBANY, NY 12231-0001
TELEPHONE: (518) 474-2518
FAX: (518) 474-1927
WWW.OPENGOVERNMENT.NY.GOV

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

BRIAN A. BENJAMIN
PETER D. GRIMM
HADLEY HARRIGAN
JEANETTE M. MOY
ROBERT F. MUJICA, JR.
ROBERT J. RODRIGUEZ
DAVID A. SCHULZ
FRANKLIN H. STONE
STEPHEN B. WATERS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SHOSHANAH BEWLAY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Whom it May Concern

FROM: Shoshanah Bewlay
Executive Director, Committee on Open Government

RE: *Amendments to the Open Meetings Law Relating to Videoconferencing*

DATE: April 11, 2022

On April 9, 2022, Governor Hochul signed Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2022 relating to the New York State budget for the 2022-2023 state fiscal year. See [Senate Bill 8006-C/Assembly Bill 9006-C](#). Included in the bill is Part WW, an amendment to the Open Meetings Law to make permanent (until July 1, 2024) the expanded use of videoconferencing by public bodies to conduct open meetings, in very limited circumstances, regardless of a declaration of emergency.

Our staff is currently reviewing the details of the bill and will provide written guidance on our website regarding its requirements as soon as possible. Until then, however, it is important to note that the law permits public bodies to continue to hold remote meetings in the same manner as described in [Chapter 1 of the Laws of 2022](#) for a period of 60 days after its effective date, or until June 8, 2022.