

Public Meetings during COVID-19 Pandemic

House Bill 197 as passed provides “Public Bodies” with certain statutory relief during the COVID-19 Emergency. The following is meant to provide guidance to Public Bodies when navigating the various decisions to be made in light of HB 197. As always, any Public Body is encouraged to contact the Prosecutor’s Office for any clarification of this document, HB 197, or any other legal matters.

As used throughout this document and HB 197, a "**Public Body**" is defined in O.R.C. sec. 121.22 (B)(1)(a-c) means any of the following:

- board, commission, committee, council, or similar decision-making body of a state agency, institution, or authority, and any legislative authority, or
- board, commission, committee, council, agency, authority, or similar decision-making body of any **county, township, municipal corporation**, school district, or other political subdivision or local public institution;
- Any committee or subcommittee of any of the above
- a court of jurisdiction of a sanitary district organized wholly for the purpose of providing a water supply for domestic, municipal, and public use when meeting for the purpose of the appointment, removal, or reappointment of a member of the board of directors of such a district pursuant to section 6115.10 of the Revised Code,

A **Meeting** is a prearranged gathering of a majority of the public body members for discussing and deliberating public business. (This would include executive sessions.)

