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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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S.B. 179
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Thomas

Abby McMahon, Attorney

SUMMARY

- Requires the chairperson of a committee in the Ohio House of Representatives or Senate to provide the public with access to a committee meeting by means of teleconference, video conference, or any other similar electronic technology.
- Requires the chairperson, if the electronic technology permits, to ensure that the public can observe discussions and deliberations of the committee.
- Requires the chairperson to establish a means, through the use of electronic equipment that is widely available to the public, to converse with witnesses, and to receive documentary testimony and physical evidence.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

The bill requires the chairperson of a committee¹ in the Ohio House of Representatives or Senate to provide the public with access to a committee meeting by means of teleconference, video conference, or any other similar electronic technology. The chairperson must ensure that the public can hear the discussions and deliberations of all of the committee members. If the electronic technology permits, the chairperson also must ensure that the public can observe discussions and deliberations.

Additionally, the chairperson must establish a means, through the use of electronic equipment that is widely available to the public, to converse with witnesses, and to receive documentary testimony and physical evidence.

¹ Under continuing law, "committee" means any committee of either house of the General Assembly, a joint committee of both, including a conference committee, or a subcommittee of those. R.C. 101.15(A)(2).

Under continuing law, all committee meetings must be open to the public at all times and establish a reasonable method to provide the public with notice of the time and place of all regularly scheduled meetings and the time, place, and purpose of all special meetings. Any formal action, including relating to a bill or resolution, taken by a committee must be done in an open meeting of the committee.²

HISTORY

| Action | Date |
|------------|----------|
| Introduced | 05-12-21 |

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² R.C. 101.15.