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Synopsis of Senate Committee Amendments

(This synopsis does not address amendments that may have been adopted on the Senate Floor.)

H.B. 257 of the 135th General Assembly

Senate Government Oversight

Christopher Glass, Attorney

The Senate Government Oversight adopted an amendment as follows:

Virtual meetings

- Removes the specific exclusion from the bill of the following from the definition of “public body” for the purposes of the bill:
 - The General Assembly, or any of its committees or subcommittees;
 - Any court, including a mayor’s court;
 - The State Board of Education;
 - The Board of Directors of the Bureau of Workers’ Compensation;
 - The Ohio Elections Commission;
 - A board of county commissioners;
 - A board of township trustees;
 - The legislative authority of a municipal corporation or charter county;
 - A city, local, or exempted village board of education;
 - A board of elections.
- Prohibits a public body from meeting virtually if the members of the public body are compensated for or elected to their position by a vote of the general public.
- Permits otherwise ineligible public bodies to hold and attend a virtual meeting if the meeting’s participants include the members of at least one other public body, unless the meeting is held to vote on a significant nonroutine expenditure, significant hiring decision, or tax-related matter.
- Revises the bill’s language related to retirement boards to require that the number of a board’s regular in-person meetings must constitute at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the board’s annual

meetings, up from $\frac{1}{2}$, and that a majority of board members attending a virtual meeting must be present in person, up from $\frac{1}{3}$.

Secret ballots

- Removes the bill's language permitting a county central committee to use a secret ballot process to make an appointment to fill a vacant county office.