

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1889 Session of  
2021

INTRODUCED BY ROZZI, N. NELSON, D. WILLIAMS, DELLOSO, NEILSON,  
CIRESI AND WARREN, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 11 (Cities) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
2 Statutes, in council, further providing for oath of council  
3 members, quorum and rules and for meetings of council, notice  
4 and participation by telecommunication device.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Section 11004(b) (3) and 11005(b) of Title 11 of  
8 the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended to read:

9 § 11004. Oath of council members, quorum and rules.

10 \* \* \*

11 (b) Quorum.--

12 \* \* \*

13 [(3) Only members physically present at a meeting place  
14 within the city shall be counted in establishing a quorum.]

15 \* \* \*

16 § 11005. Meetings of council, notice and participation by  
17 telecommunication device.

18 \* \* \*

19 (b) Telecommunication.--Council may provide for the

1 participation of council members and the public in meetings of  
2 council by means of telecommunication devices, including  
3 telephones or computer terminals which permit audio  
4 communication, between locations. [if:

5 (1) A quorum under section 11004 (relating to oath of  
6 council members, quorum and rules) is established at the  
7 convening or reconvening of the meeting. If, after the  
8 convening or reconvening of the meeting, a member has been  
9 disqualified from voting as a matter of law but is still  
10 physically present, council members participating by  
11 telecommunication device in accordance with this section  
12 shall be counted to maintain a quorum.

13 (2) The telecommunication device used permits the member  
14 or members of council not physically present at the meeting  
15 to:

16 (i) speak to and hear the comments and votes, if  
17 any, of the members of council who are physically present  
18 as well as other members of council who may not be  
19 physically present and who are also using a  
20 telecommunication device to participate in the meeting;  
21 and

22 (ii) speak to and hear the comments of the public  
23 who are physically present at the meeting.

24 (3) The telecommunication device used permits members of  
25 council and the members of the public who are physically  
26 present at the meeting to speak to and hear the comments and  
27 votes, if any, of the member or members of council who are  
28 not physically present at the meeting.

29 (4) Council may only authorize participation by  
30 telecommunication device for any of the following reasons for

1 physical absence:

2 (i) Illness or disability of the member of council.

3 (ii) Care for the ill or newborn in the member's  
4 immediate family.

5 (iii) Emergency.

6 (iv) Family or business travel.

7 (5) Nothing in this subsection may be construed to limit  
8 the protection and prohibition contained in any law or  
9 regulation relating to the rights of the disabled.]

10 \* \* \*

11 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.