1	OPEN AND PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT AMENDMENTS
2	2024 GENERAL SESSION
3	STATE OF UTAH
4	Chief Sponsor: James A. Dunnigan
5	Senate Sponsor:
6 7	LONG TITLE
8	Committee Note:
9	The Political Subdivisions Interim Committee recommended this bill.
10	Legislative Vote: 14 voting for 0 voting against 2 absent
11	General Description:
12	This bill modifies provisions of the Open and Public Meetings Act.
13	Highlighted Provisions:
14	This bill:
15	modifies definitions applicable to the Open and Public Meetings Act, including:
16	 deleting the definition of "convening"; and
17	 modifying the definitions of "meeting," "public body," and "quorum";
18	 modifies a provision relating to the transmission of electronic messages;
19	 repeals language relating to posting notice of an electronic meeting; and
20	 repeals obsolete language and makes conforming and technical changes.
21	Money Appropriated in this Bill:
22	None
23	Other Special Clauses:
24	None
25	Utah Code Sections Affected:
26	AMENDS:
27	52-4-103, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapters 139, 374 and 457



	52-4-204, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapters 169, 422
	52-4-207, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 100
	52-4-209, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2018, Chapter 415
	52-4-210 , as enacted by Laws of Utah 2011, Chapter 25
Ве	it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:
	Section 1. Section 52-4-103 is amended to read:
	52-4-103. Definitions.
	As used in this chapter:
	(1) "Anchor location" means the physical location from which:
	(a) an electronic meeting originates; or
	(b) the participants are connected.
	(2) "Capitol hill complex" means the grounds and buildings within the area bounded by
30	0 North Street, Columbus Street, 500 North Street, and East Capitol Boulevard in Salt Lake
Ci	ty.
	[(3) (a) "Convening" means the calling together of a public body by a person
au	thorized to do so for the express purpose of discussing or acting upon a subject over which
tha	t public body has jurisdiction or advisory power.]
	[(b) "Convening" does not include the initiation of a routine conversation between
m	embers of a board of trustees of a large public transit district if the members involved in the
co	nversation do not, during the conversation, take a tentative or final vote on the matter that is
the	subject of the conversation.]
	[(4)] (3) "Electronic meeting" means a public meeting [convened or] conducted by
me	eans of a conference using electronic communications.
	[(5) "Electronic message" means a communication transmitted electronically,
inc	cluding:
	[(a) electronic mail;]
	[(b) instant messaging;]
	[(c) electronic chat;]
	[(d) text messaging, which means a communication in the form of electronic text or
on	e or more electronic images sent by the actor from a telephone, computer, or other electronic

59	communication device to another person's telephone, computer, or electronic communication
60	device by addressing the communication to the person's telephone number or other electronic
61	communication access code or number; or]
62	[(e) any other method that conveys a message or facilitates communication
63	electronically.]
64	[(6)] <u>(4)</u> "Fiduciary or commercial information" means information:
65	(a) related to any subject if disclosure:
66	(i) would conflict with a fiduciary obligation; or
67	(ii) is prohibited by insider trading provisions; or
68	(b) that is commercial in nature including:
69	(i) account owners or borrowers;
70	(ii) demographic data;
71	(iii) contracts and related payments;
72	(iv) negotiations;
73	(v) proposals or bids;
74	(vi) investments;
75	(vii) management of funds;
76	(viii) fees and charges;
77	(ix) plan and program design;
78	(x) investment options and underlying investments offered to account owners;
79	(xi) marketing and outreach efforts;
80	(xii) financial plans; or
81	(xiii) reviews and audits excluding the final report required under Section 53B-8a-111.
82	[(7)] (5) (a) "Meeting" means [the convening of a public body or a specified body, with
83	a quorum present, including a workshop or an executive session, whether in person or by
84	means of electronic communications, for the purpose of discussing, receiving comments from
85	the public about, or acting upon a matter over which the public body or specified body has
86	jurisdiction or advisory power.] a gathering of a public body or specified body:
87	(i) whether in person or through electronic communications, or a combination of in
88	person and through electronic communications;
89	(ii) with a quorum of the public body or specified body, as the case may be, present in

90	person or through electronic communications; and
91	(iii) convened, by an individual with authority to convene the public body or specified
92	body, for the express purpose of acting as a public body or specified body to discuss, receive
93	public comment about, or take action upon a matter that is within the scope of the authority of
94	the public body or specified body.
95	(b) "Meeting" also means a gathering of or conversation between two or three members
96	of a three-member public body, whether in person or through electronic communications, if the
97	gathering or conversation:
98	(i) involves strategy or planning for action to be taken by the public body; or
99	(ii) includes a tentative or final vote on a matter that is or is likely to be under
100	consideration by the public body.
101	[(b)] (c) "Meeting" does not mean:
102	(i) a chance gathering or social gathering;
103	(ii) a [convening] gathering of the State Tax Commission to consider a confidential tax
104	matter in accordance with Section 59-1-405; [or]
105	(iii) a [convening] gathering of a three-member board of trustees of a large public
106	transit district as defined in Section 17B-2a-802 if:
107	(A) the board members do not, during the conversation, take a tentative or final vote on
108	the matter that is the subject of the conversation; or
109	(B) the conversation pertains only to day-to-day management and operation of the
110	public transit district[-];
111	(iv) a gathering of a public body, in person or through electronic communications, with
112	a quorum present if:
113	(A) the gathering is part of an event that is initiated or hosted by someone other than
114	the public body;
115	(B) all members of the public body are invited to or allowed to attend the event; and
116	(C) the public body does not take any action as a public body at the gathering; or
117	(v) a gathering of a public body, in person or through electronic communications, with
118	a quorum present if:
119	(A) the gathering relates to or involves only internal administrative public body
120	matters; and

121	(B) the public body does not appropriate or spend any public funds during the time the
122	public body is gathered together.
123	[(c)] (d) "Meeting" does not mean [the convening] a gathering of a public body that has
124	both legislative and executive responsibilities if:
125	(i) no public funds are appropriated for expenditure during the time the public body is
126	[convened] gathered together; and
127	(ii) the public body is [convened] gathered solely for the discussion or implementation
128	of <u>an</u> administrative or operational [matters] <u>matter</u> :
129	(A) for which no formal action by the public body is required; or
130	(B) that would not come before the public body for discussion or action.
131	[(8)] (6) "Monitor" means to hear or observe, live, by audio or video equipment, all of
132	the public statements of each member of the public body who is participating in a meeting.
133	[(9)] (7) "Participate" means the ability to communicate with all of the members of a
134	public body, either verbally or electronically, so that each member of the public body can hear
135	or observe the communication.
136	[(10)] <u>(8)</u> (a) "Public body" means:
137	(i) [any] an administrative, [advisory,] executive, or legislative body of the state or [its
138	political subdivisions that] of a political subdivision of the state if the body:
139	(A) is created by the Utah Constitution, statute, rule, ordinance, or resolution;
140	(B) consists of two or more [persons] individuals;
141	(C) expends, disburses, or is supported in whole or in part by tax revenue; and
142	(D) is vested with the authority to make decisions regarding the public's business; [or]
143	(ii) an advisory body of the state or of a political subdivision of the state if the body:
144	(A) is created by the Utah Constitution, statute, rule, ordinance, or resolution;
145	(B) consists of two or more individuals; and
146	(C) expends, disburses, or is supported in whole or in part by tax revenue; or
147	[(iii)] (iii) any administrative, advisory, executive, or policymaking body of an
148	association, as that term is defined in Section 53G-7-1101, that:
149	(A) consists of two or more persons;
150	(B) expends, disburses, or is supported in whole or in part by dues paid by a public
151	school or whose employees participate in a benefit or program described in Title 49, Utah State

152	Retirement and Insurance Benefit Act; and
153	(C) is vested with authority to make decisions regarding the participation of a public
154	school or student in an interscholastic activity, as that term is defined in Section 53G-7-1101.
155	(b) "Public body" includes:
156	(i) an interlocal entity or joint or cooperative undertaking, as those terms are defined in
157	Section 11-13-103;
158	(ii) a governmental nonprofit corporation as that term is defined in Section 11-13a-102
159	(iii) the Utah Independent Redistricting Commission; and
160	(iv) a project entity, as that term is defined in Section 11-13-103.
161	(c) "Public body" does not include:
162	(i) a political party, a political group, or a political caucus;
163	(ii) a conference committee, a rules committee, [or] a sifting committee, or an
164	administrative staff committee of the Legislature;
165	(iii) a school community council or charter trust land council, as that term is defined in
166	Section 53G-7-1203;
167	(iv) a taxed interlocal entity, as that term is defined in Section 11-13-602, if the taxed
168	interlocal entity is not a project entity; or
169	(v) the following Legislative Management subcommittees, which are established in
170	Section 36-12-8, when meeting for the purpose of selecting or evaluating a candidate to
171	recommend for employment, except that the meeting in which a subcommittee votes to
172	recommend that a candidate be employed shall be subject to the provisions of this act:
173	(A) the Research and General Counsel Subcommittee;
174	(B) the Budget Subcommittee; and
175	(C) the Audit Subcommittee.
176	[(11)] (9) "Public statement" means a statement made in the ordinary course of
177	business of the public body with the intent that all other members of the public body receive it.
178	[(12)] (10) $[(a)]$ "Quorum" means a simple majority of the membership of a public
179	body, unless otherwise defined by applicable law.
180	[(b) "Quorum" does not include a meeting of two elected officials by themselves when
181	no action, either formal or informal, is taken.]
182	[(13)] (11) "Recording" means an audio, or an audio and video, record of the

proceedings of a meeting that can be used to review the proceedings of the meeting.

184	[(14)] <u>(12)</u> "Specified body":
185	(a) means an administrative, advisory, executive, or legislative body that:
186	(i) is not a public body;
187	(ii) consists of three or more members; and
188	(iii) includes at least one member who is:
189	(A) a legislator; and
190	(B) officially appointed to the body by the president of the Senate, speaker of the
191	House of Representatives, or governor; and
192	(b) does not include a body listed in Subsection [(10)(c)(ii) or (10)(c)(v)] (8)(c)(ii) or
193	(8)(c)(v).
194	[(15) "Transmit" means to send, convey, or communicate an electronic message by
195	electronic means.]
196	Section 2. Section 52-4-204 is amended to read:
197	52-4-204. Closed meeting held upon vote of members Business Reasons for
198	meeting recorded.
199	(1) A closed meeting may be held if:
200	(a) (i) a quorum is present;
201	(ii) the meeting is an open meeting for which notice has been given under Section
202	52-4-202; and
203	(iii) (A) two-thirds of the members of the public body present at the open meeting vote
204	to approve closing the meeting;
205	(B) for a meeting that is required to be closed under Section 52-4-205, if a majority of
206	the members of the public body present at an open meeting vote to approve closing the
207	meeting;
208	(C) for an ethics committee of the Legislature that is conducting an open meeting for
209	the purpose of reviewing an ethics complaint, a majority of the members present vote to
210	approve closing the meeting for the purpose of seeking or obtaining legal advice on legal,
211	evidentiary, or procedural matters, or for conducting deliberations to reach a decision on the
212	complaint;
213	(D) for the Political Subdivisions Ethics Review Commission established in Section

63A-15-201 that is conducting an open meeting for the purpose of reviewing an ethics complaint in accordance with Section 63A-15-701, a majority of the members present vote to approve closing the meeting for the purpose of seeking or obtaining legal advice on legal, evidentiary, or procedural matters, or for conducting deliberations to reach a decision on the complaint;

- (E) for a project entity that is conducting an open meeting for the purposes of determining the value of an asset, developing a strategy related to the sale or use of that asset;
- (F) for a project entity that is conducting an open meeting for purposes of discussing a business decision, the disclosure of which could cause commercial injury to, or confer a competitive advantage upon a potential or actual competitor of, the project entity; or
- (G) for a project entity that is conducting an open meeting for purposes of discussing a record, the disclosure of which could cause commercial injury to, or confer a competitive advantage upon a potential competitor of, the project entity; or
- (b) (i) for the Independent Legislative Ethics Commission, the closed meeting is [convened] held for the purpose of conducting business relating to the receipt or review of an ethics complaint, if public notice of the closed meeting is given under Section 52-4-202, with the agenda for the meeting stating that the meeting will be closed for the purpose of "conducting business relating to the receipt or review of ethics complaints";
- (ii) for the Political Subdivisions Ethics Review Commission established in Section 63A-15-201, the closed meeting is [convened] held for the purpose of conducting business relating to the preliminary review of an ethics complaint in accordance with Section 63A-15-602, if public notice of the closed meeting is given under Section 52-4-202, with the agenda for the meeting stating that the meeting will be closed for the purpose of "conducting business relating to the review of ethics complaints"; or
- (iii) for the Independent Executive Branch Ethics Commission created in Section 63A-14-202, the closed meeting is [convened] held for the purpose of conducting business relating to an ethics complaint, if public notice of the closed meeting is given under Section 52-4-202, with the agenda for the meeting stating that the meeting will be closed for the purpose of "conducting business relating to an ethics complaint" [; or].
- [(iv) for the Data Security Management Council created in Section 63A-16-701, the closed meeting is convened in accordance with Subsection 63A-16-701(7), if public notice of

the closed meeting is given under Section 52-4-202, with the agenda for the meeting stating that the meeting will be closed for the purpose of "conducting business relating to information technology security."

- (2) A closed meeting is not allowed unless each matter discussed in the closed meeting is permitted under Section 52-4-205.
- (3) (a) An ordinance, resolution, rule, regulation, contract, or appointment may not be approved at a closed meeting.
- (b) (i) A public body may not take a vote in a closed meeting, except for a vote on a motion to end the closed portion of the meeting and return to an open meeting.
- (ii) A motion to end the closed portion of a meeting may be approved by a majority of the public body members present at the meeting.
- (4) The following information shall be publicly announced and entered on the minutes of the open meeting at which the closed meeting was approved:
 - (a) the reason or reasons for holding the closed meeting;

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- (b) the location where the closed meeting will be held; and
- (c) the vote by name, of each member of the public body, either for or against the motion to hold the closed meeting.
- (5) Except as provided in Subsection 52-4-205(2), nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require any meeting to be closed to the public.
 - Section 3. Section **52-4-207** is amended to read:
 - 52-4-207. Electronic meetings -- Authorization -- Requirements.
- (1) Except as otherwise provided for a charter school in Section 52-4-209, a public body may [convene and] conduct an electronic meeting in accordance with this section.
- (2) (a) A public body may not hold an electronic meeting unless the public body has adopted a resolution, rule, or ordinance governing the use of electronic meetings.
- (b) A resolution, rule, or ordinance described in Subsection (2)(a) that governs an electronic meeting shall establish the conditions under which a remote member is included in calculating a quorum.
 - (c) A resolution, rule, or ordinance described in Subsection (2)(a) may:
- 274 (i) prohibit or limit electronic meetings based on budget, public policy, or logistical considerations;

276	(ii) require a quorum of the public body to:
277	(A) be present at a single anchor location for the meeting; and
278	(B) vote to approve establishment of an electronic meeting in order to include other
279	members of the public body through an electronic connection;
280	(iii) require a request for an electronic meeting to be made by a member of a public
281	body up to three days prior to the meeting to allow for arrangements to be made for the
282	electronic meeting;
283	(iv) restrict the number of separate connections for members of the public body that are
284	allowed for an electronic meeting based on available equipment capability;
285	(v) if the public body is statutorily authorized to allow a member of the public body to
286	act by proxy, establish the conditions under which a member may vote or take other action by
287	proxy; or
288	(vi) establish other procedures, limitations, or conditions governing electronic meetings
289	not in conflict with this section.
290	(3) A public body that [convenes and] conducts an electronic meeting shall:
291	(a) give public notice of the electronic meeting in accordance with Section 52-4-202;
292	<u>and</u>
293	[(b) except for an electronic meeting described in Subsection (5), post written notice of
294	the electronic meeting at the anchor location; and]
295	[(c)] (b) except as otherwise provided in a rule of the Legislature applicable to the
296	public body, at least 24 hours before the electronic meeting is scheduled to begin, provide each
297	member of the public body a description of how to electronically connect to the meeting.
298	(4) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (5), a public body that [convenes and]
299	conducts an electronic meeting shall provide space and facilities at an anchor location for
300	members of the public to attend the open portions of the meeting.
301	(b) A public body that [convenes and] conducts an electronic meeting may provide
302	means by which members of the public may attend the meeting remotely by electronic means.
303	(5) Subsection (4)(a) does not apply to an electronic meeting if:
304	(a) (i) the chair of the public body determines that:
305	(A) conducting the meeting as provided in Subsection (4)(a) presents a substantial risk

to the health or safety of those present or who would otherwise be present at the anchor

307	location; or
308	(B) the location where the public body would normally meet has been ordered closed
309	to the public for health or safety reasons; and
310	(ii) the public notice for the meeting includes:
311	(A) a statement describing the chair's determination under Subsection (5)(a)(i);
312	(B) a summary of the facts upon which the chair's determination is based; and
313	(C) information on how a member of the public may attend the meeting remotely by
314	electronic means;
315	(b) (i) during the course of the electronic meeting, the chair:
316	(A) determines that continuing to conduct the electronic meeting as provided in
317	Subsection (4)(a) presents a substantial risk to the health or safety of those present at the
318	anchor location; and
319	(B) announces during the electronic meeting the chair's determination under Subsection
320	(5)(b)(i)(A) and states a summary of the facts upon which the determination is made; and
321	(ii) in [convening] conducting the electronic meeting, the public body has provided
322	means by which members of the public who are not physically present at the anchor location
323	may attend the electronic meeting remotely by electronic means;
324	(c) (i) the public body is a special district board of trustees established under Title 17B,
325	Chapter 1, Part 3, Board of Trustees;
326	(ii) the board of trustees' membership consists of:
327	(A) at least two members who are elected or appointed to the board as owners of land,
328	or as an agent or officer of the owners of land, under the criteria described in Subsection
329	17B-1-302(2)(b); or
330	(B) at least one member who is elected or appointed to the board as an owner of land,
331	or as an agent or officer of the owner of land, under the criteria described in Subsection
332	17B-1-302(3)(a)(ii);
333	(iii) the public notice required under Subsection $[\frac{52-4-202(3)(a)(i)(B)}{2}]$
334	for the electronic meeting includes information on how a member of the public may attend the
335	meeting remotely by electronic means; and
336	(iv) the board of trustees allows members of the public attending the meeting by
337	remote electronic means to participate in the meeting; or

338	(d) (i) the public body is a special service district administrative control board
339	established under Title 17D, Chapter 1, Part 3, Administrative Control Board;
340	(ii) the administrative control board's membership consists of:
341	(A) at least one member who is elected or appointed to the board as an owner of land,
342	or as an agent or officer of the owner of land, under the criteria described in Subsection
343	17D-1-304(1)(a)(iii)(A) or (B), as applicable; or
344	(B) members that qualify for election or appointment to the board because the owners
345	of real property in the special service district meet or exceed the threshold percentage described
346	in Subsection 17D-1-304(1)(b)(i);
347	(iii) the public notice required under Subsection [52-4-202(3)(a)(i)(B)] 52-4-202(3)(a)
348	for the electronic meeting includes information on how a member of the public may attend the
349	meeting remotely by electronic means; and
350	(iv) the administrative control board allows members of the public attending the
351	meeting by remote electronic means to participate in the meeting.
352	(6) A determination under Subsection (5)(a)(i) expires 30 days after the day on which
353	the chair of the public body makes the determination.
354	(7) Compliance with the provisions of this section by a public body constitutes full and
355	complete compliance by the public body with the corresponding provisions of Sections
356	52-4-201 and 52-4-202.
357	(8) Unless a public body adopts a resolution, rule, or ordinance described in Subsection
358	(2)(c)(v), a public body that is conducting an electronic meeting may not allow a member to
359	vote or otherwise act by proxy.
360	(9) Except for a unanimous vote, a public body that is conducting an electronic
361	meeting shall take all votes by roll call.
362	Section 4. Section 52-4-209 is amended to read:
363	52-4-209. Electronic meetings for charter school board.
364	(1) Notwithstanding the definitions provided in Section 52-4-103 for this chapter, as
365	used in this section:
366	(a) "Anchor location" means a physical location where:
367	(i) the charter school board would normally meet if the charter school board were not
368	holding an electronic meeting; and

369	(ii) space, a facility, and technology are provided to the public to monitor and, if public
370	comment is allowed, to participate in an electronic meeting during regular business hours.
371	(b) "Charter school board" means the governing board of a school created under Title
372	53G, Chapter 5, Charter Schools.
373	(c) "Meeting" means the convening of a charter school board:
374	(i) with a quorum who:
375	(A) monitors a website at least once during the electronic meeting; and
376	(B) casts a vote on a website, if a vote is taken; and
377	(ii) for the purpose of discussing, receiving comments from the public about, or acting
378	upon a matter over which the charter school board has jurisdiction or advisory power.
379	(d) "Monitor" means to:
380	(i) read all the content added to a website by the public or a charter school board
381	member; and
382	(ii) view a vote cast by a charter school board member on a website.
383	(e) "Participate" means to add content to a website.
384	(2) (a) A charter school board may [convene and] conduct an electronic meeting in
385	accordance with Section 52-4-207.
386	(b) A charter school board may [convene and] conduct an electronic meeting in
387	accordance with this section that is in writing on a website if:
388	(i) the chair verifies that a quorum monitors the website;
389	(ii) the content of the website is available to the public;
390	(iii) the chair controls the times in which a charter school board member or the public
391	participates; and
392	(iv) the chair requires a person to identify himself or herself if the person:
393	(A) participates; or
394	(B) casts a vote as a charter school board member.
395	(3) A charter school that conducts an electronic meeting under this section shall:
396	(a) give public notice of the electronic meeting:
397	(i) in accordance with Section 52-4-202; and
398	(ii) by posting written notice at the anchor location as required under Section 52-4-207;
399	(b) in addition to giving public notice required by Subsection (3)(a), provide:

(i) notice of the electronic meeting to the members of the charter school board at least 24 hours before the meeting so that they may participate in and be counted as present for all purposes, including the determination that a quorum is present; (ii) a description of how the members and the public may be connected to the electronic meeting; (iii) a start and end time for the meeting, which shall be no longer than 5 days; and (iv) a start and end time for when a vote will be taken in an electronic meeting, which shall be no longer than four hours; and (c) provide an anchor location. (4) The chair shall: (a) not allow anyone to participate from the time the notice described in Subsection (3)(b)(iv) is given until the end time for when a vote will be taken; and (b) allow a charter school board member to change a vote until the end time for when a vote will be taken. (5) During the time in which a vote may be taken, a charter school board member may not communicate in any way with any person regarding an issue over which the charter school board has jurisdiction. (6) A charter school conducting an electronic meeting under this section may not close a meeting as otherwise allowed under this part. (7) (a) Written minutes shall be kept of an electronic meeting conducted as required in Section 52-4-203. (b) (i) Notwithstanding Section 52-4-203, a recording is not required of an electronic meeting described in Subsection (2)(b). (ii) All of the content of the website shall be kept for an electronic meeting conducted under this section. (c) Written minutes are the official record of action taken at an electronic meeting as required in Section 52-4-203.

429 (i) is secure; and

electronic meeting:

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(ii) provides with reasonably certainty the identity of a charter school board member

(8) (a) A charter school board shall ensure that the website used to conduct an

431	who logs on, adds content, or casts a vote on the website.
432	(b) A person is guilty of a class B misdemeanor if the person falsely identifies himself
433	or herself as required by Subsection (2)(b)(iv).
434	(9) Compliance with the provisions of this section by a charter school constitutes full
435	and complete compliance by the public body with the corresponding provisions of Sections
436	52-4-201 and 52-4-202.
437	Section 5. Section 52-4-210 is amended to read:
438	52-4-210. Electronic message transmissions.
439	Nothing in this chapter [shall] may be construed to restrict a member of a public body
440	from transmitting an electronic message to other members of the public body at a time when
441	the public body is not convened in an open meeting, as defined in Subsection 52-4-103(5)(a).
442	Section 6. Effective date.

This bill takes effect on May 1, 2024.