

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-first General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 17-0543.01 Kate Meyer x4348

**HOUSE BILL 17-1113**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Willett and Arndt,**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**(None),**

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**House Committees**

State, Veterans, & Military Affairs  
Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION IN COMMITTEE MEETINGS**  
102 **DURING THE LEGISLATIVE INTERIM.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

The bill gives the executive committee of the legislative council the ability to consider, recommend, and establish policies regarding electronic participation by senators or representatives in committee meetings during the legislative interim.

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Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 hereby finds and declares that:

4 (a) Electronic participation in committee meetings by members of  
5 the general assembly is currently prohibited, but that general prohibition  
6 fails to account for technological advances or the reality that Colorado's  
7 part-time legislature presents significant year-round demands on members  
8 fulfilling various legislative obligations;

9 (b) Modern technology facilitates a verisimilitude of in-person  
10 interaction, which technology Colorado has already successfully deployed  
11 to permit remote testimony by the public at committee meetings;

12 (c) Rather than enshrine in black-letter law exhaustive criteria to  
13 govern and circumscribe the use of electronic participation, the general  
14 assembly entrusts the executive committee of the legislative council to  
15 monitor members' electronic participation, if any is allowed, and to  
16 develop and occasionally revisit policies so as to:

17 (I) Attain the equitable, secure, and orderly use of electronic  
18 participation; and

19 (II) Ensure the access to, and quality of, legislative proceedings  
20 for the public, especially inasmuch as the proceedings may incorporate  
21 visual technology that allows electronically participating members to see  
22 and be seen; and

23 (d) The general assembly therefore intends to enable the executive  
24 committee of the legislative council to allow, in its discretion, electronic  
25 participation in committee meetings during the legislative interim by  
26 legislators in a manner that provides maximum flexibility for current and  
27 future legislative leaders to implement, regulate, and refine the

1 parameters governing electronic participation.

2 (2) The general assembly further finds that a legislator  
3 participating electronically is still entitled to compensation for attending  
4 the meeting, but not for reimbursement of expenses.

5 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 2-3-303, **add** (2)(h)  
6 as follows:

7 **2-3-303. Functions - report - definitions.** (2) In addition to any  
8 other powers and duties set forth in law, the executive committee of the  
9 legislative council has the following powers and duties:

10 (h) (I) THE POWER TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL  
11 ASSEMBLY TO PARTICIPATE ELECTRONICALLY IN COMMITTEE MEETINGS  
12 AND TO RECOMMEND AND DEVELOP POLICIES REGARDING ELECTRONIC  
13 PARTICIPATION IF SO ALLOWED; EXCEPT THAT, IF ALLOWED, ELECTRONIC  
14 PARTICIPATION MUST ONLY BE ALLOWED FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS  
15 OCCURRING DURING THE LEGISLATIVE INTERIM.

16 (II) A MEMBER PARTICIPATING ELECTRONICALLY IN A COMMITTEE  
17 MEETING PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2)(h) MUST BE COUNTED  
18 TOWARD ESTABLISHING A QUORUM FOR ATTENDANCE PURPOSES, BUT NOT  
19 TOWARD ESTABLISHING A QUORUM FOR VOTING PURPOSES. ONLY THOSE  
20 MEMBERS ATTENDING IN PERSON ARE PERMITTED TO VOTE ON ANY  
21 MATTER BEFORE THE COMMITTEE.

22 (III) A MEMBER PARTICIPATING ELECTRONICALLY IN A COMMITTEE  
23 MEETING PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (2)(h) IS DEEMED TO BE IN  
24 ATTENDANCE OF THAT COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING  
25 COMPENSATION TO WHICH THE MEMBER IS ENTITLED UNDER SECTION  
26 2-2-307 (3). NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 2-2-307 (3)(b), MEMBERS  
27 PARTICIPATING ELECTRONICALLY ARE NOT ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT

1 FOR ANY EXPENSES INCURRED IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH ELECTRONIC  
2 PARTICIPATION.

3 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
4 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
5 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.