



**State of New York
Department of State
Committee on Open Government**

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OML AO 5642

MEMORANDUM

TO: Whom it May Concern

FROM: Shoshanah Bewlay
Executive Director, Committee on Open Government

RE: *Chapter 417 of the Laws of 2021 "Notwithstanding" Elements of Public Officers Law Article 7 "The Open Meetings Law" through January 15, 2022.*

DATE: September 2, 2021

On September 2, 2021, Governor Kathy Hochul signed into Law Chapter 417 of the Laws of 2021 which, in part, authorizes most public bodies "to meet and take such action authorized by law without permitting in public in-person access to meetings and authorize such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed."

The language of the Law substantially mirrors former Executive Order 202.1 issued in March 2020. Guidance relating to that order can be found on the Committee on Open Government's website under Open Meetings Law Advisory Opinions, key phrase "Declared Disaster Emergency." Links to those opinions are below.

[OML AO 5630A](#), [OML AO 5631A](#), [OML AO 5632A](#),