



Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association

March 27, 2023

To: Her Excellency Maura T. Healey, Governor of the Commonwealth

Re: The Fiscal Year 2023 Supplemental Budget Bill

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Dear Governor Healey,

I am writing to you in my capacity as the President of the Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association (the "MMLA"), the Commonwealth's municipal bar association, to communicate our strong support of language contained in the enacted Fiscal Year 2023 Supplement Budget bill laid before you for signature, that would extend certain COVID-19 relief measures applicable to municipalities and other public bodies subject to the Open Meeting Law.

Specifically, the Fiscal Year 2023 Supplement Budget bill would extend the local option to remotely participate at meetings of public bodies, agencies and commissions, as well as an option for fully remote or hybrid participation at Town Meetings, until March 31, 2025 (two years from the current expiration date of March 31, 2023).

This extension is an important step in ensuring public access to local government while also recognizing the realities still faced by municipalities and districts across the Commonwealth due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the extension also provides all interested parties ample opportunity to develop a more permanent solution. MMLA endorses a more permanent solution, and we look forward to partnering with you and both the House and Senate as such solution is developed. Again, MMLA strongly supports the extensions included in the Fiscal Year 2023 Supplement Budget bill and urges your signature on the same, in order to provide public bodies throughout the Commonwealth with certainty prior to the current extension's expiration on March 31, 2023.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Matthew G. Feher, Esq.
President, MMLA

CC: The Honorable Karen E. Spilka, Senate President
The Honorable Ronald J. Mariano, Speaker of the House