



Mike Braun
Governor

Lindsay M. Weaver, MD, FACEP
State Health Commissioner

HB 1577 Workgroup Electronic Communications Meeting Policy

Purpose:

Indiana Code 5-14-1.5-3.6 authorizes members of the governing body of a state agency who are not physically present at the meeting of the governing body to participate by electronic communications. Pursuant to this statute, governing boards are required to adopt policies authorizing electronic participation.

This policy is intended to comply with the requirements of Indiana Code 5-14-1.5-3.6 and authorizes members to participate in meetings by electronic communications when the member is not physically present in accordance with the framework set forth below.

Policy:

- A. The HB 1577 Workgroup (Workgroup) members (Members) are encouraged to attend all meetings in person.
- B. A Member may participate by electronic communications, including telephone, computer, or video conferencing, so long as the electronic communications allows for simultaneous communications with other Members participating electronically, the Members physically present at the meeting and the public physically present at the meeting.
- C. Members representing at least one-third (1/3), three (3) of the nine (9) Indiana congressional districts must be physically present any given Workgroup meeting.
- D. All Members must physically attend at least one (1) Workgroup meeting a year.
- E. A Member who participates in a meeting of the Workgroup by permitted electronic communications and in accordance with this policy:
 - a. shall be counted as present at the meeting;
 - b. is counted for quorum purposes; and
 - c. may vote at the meeting.

To **promote**, **protect**, and **improve** the health and safety of all Hoosiers.



- F. Members will notify the Food Protection Division (RetailFoodProgram@health.in.gov) that the Member wants to participate electronically at least seven (7) days before the meeting. The division will consider requests to participate electronically made less than seven (7) days in advance of a meeting in cases of emergencies. The division may reject a Member's request for electronic participation if representatives of at least three (3) Indiana congressional districts have not confirmed physical attendance.
- G. Votes of the Workgroup shall be taken through roll call when a Member or Members are participating by electronic communications.

References: IC 16-19-2

IC 16-19-3

IC 5-14-1.5-3.6

Approval:

Effective Date: