

Memorandum to Municipal Clients

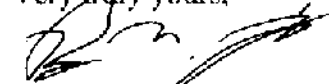
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provisions of G.L. c.30A before the laws were amended this year. For municipal public bodies, therefore, the quoted exemption will never apply and should therefore not be utilized by local boards. For example, after a license hearing, a licensing board must continue to conduct its deliberations and decision-making in an open session, as it did under the former Open Meeting Law.

Remote Participation

Finally, we have had several inquiries as to whether remote participation by board members (via speaker phone, Skype, or video conferencing, for example) is allowed under the new Open Meeting Law. General Laws c.30A, §20(d) provides that the Attorney General may authorize some form of remote participation, subject to certain conditions. Although the Division of Open Government solicited public comment on this issue in September, to date the Division has not promulgated a regulation on the subject. Unless and until the Attorney General authorizes remote participation by regulation or letter ruling, remote participation by members of a public body in a meeting of that body will continue to be prohibited.

Very truly yours,



Brian W. Riley