

(Use this form to file a local law with the Secretary of

~~County~~ of Bethlehem
~~City~~
Town
~~Village~~
Local Law No. of 2 2022

A local law To authorize members of the Town Board to participate in video Town Board meetings from locations outside the Town of Bethlehem's geographical limits

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the

~~County~~ of Bethlehem as follows:
~~City~~
Town
~~Village~~

BE IT ENACTED BY the Town Board of the Bethlehem as follows:

Section 1. Legislative Intent

It is the intent of this local law to give Town Board members the authority to participate in video Town Board meetings when mandated by Executive Order from locations that fall outside the Town's geographical boundaries. Videoconferencing has proven to be an effective and useful tool for Town Board meetings that allows members to participate despite issues such as inclement weather, illness, Covid-19 restrictions or travel plans. Videoconferencing also helps ameliorate potential quorum issues so that the Town is able to address business and matters in a more timely fashion.

Although Public Officers Law § 102 expressly allows members of a public body to attend and participate in meetings using videoconferencing, Town Law § 62 states that Town Board meetings must take place within the Town thereby making it unclear if a Town Board member may participate in a video meeting via videoconference from a location outside the Town's boundaries. This local law is meant to expressly provide that authority to members of the Town Board when participating in a video meeting.

(If additional space is needed, attach Pages the same size as this sheet, and number each.)

Section 2. Authority

This local law is adopted pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law § 10 which expressly authorizes the Town Board to adopt a local law superseding any provision of Town Law relating to the property, affairs or government of the town.

Section 3. Videoconferencing from Outside Town Limits

The Town Board of the Town of Bethlehem hereby supersedes Town Law § 62 to expressly allow Town Board members to participate in video Town Board meetings using videoconferencing from locations that fall outside the geographical limitations of the town.

Section 4. Severability

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law or the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstance, shall be adjusted by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law or in its application to the person, individual, firm or corporation or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

Section 5. Effective date

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

Local Law 2 od 2022 was filed by the Department of State on May 6, 2022.

This is a non-code law.