

## **12.29 DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY.**

### **Subdivision 1. Authority to declare emergency.**

A local emergency may be declared only by the mayor of a municipality or the chair of a county board of commissioners or their legal successors. It may not be continued for a period in excess of three days except by or with the consent of the governing body of the political subdivision. Any order or proclamation declaring, continuing, or terminating a local emergency must be given prompt and general publicity and filed promptly by the chief of the local record-keeping agency of the political subdivision.

### **Subd. 2 .Effect of declaration of emergency.**

A declaration of a local emergency invokes necessary portions of the response and recovery aspects of applicable local or interjurisdictional disaster plans, and may authorize aid and assistance under those plans.

## **12.37 POLITICAL SUBDIVISION'S POWERS TO FAST PROVIDE EMERGENCY AID.**

During an emergency or disaster, each political subdivision, notwithstanding any statutory or charter provision to the contrary, and through its governing body acting within or without the corporate limits of the political subdivision, may:

(1) enter into contracts and incur obligations necessary to combat the disaster by protecting the health and safety of persons and property and by providing emergency assistance to the victims of the disaster; and

(2) exercise the powers vested by this subdivision in the light of the exigencies of the disaster without compliance with time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law pertaining to:

- (i) the performance of public work;
- (ii) entering into contracts;
- (iii) incurring of obligations;
- (iv) employment of temporary workers;
- (v) rental of equipment;
- (vi) purchase of supplies and materials;
- (vii) limitations upon tax levies; and

(viii) the appropriation and expenditure of public funds, for example, but not limited to, publication of ordinances and resolutions, publication of calls for bids, provisions of civil service laws and rules, provisions relating to low bids, and requirements for budgets.

## **13D.021 MEETINGS BY TELEPHONE OR OTHER ELECTRONIC MEANS; CONDITIONS.**

### **Subdivision 1. Conditions.**

A meeting governed by this section and section [13D.01](#), subdivisions 1, 2, 4, and 5, may be conducted by telephone or other electronic means so long as the following conditions are met:

(1) the presiding officer, chief legal counsel, or chief administrative officer for the affected governing body determines that an in-person meeting or a meeting conducted under section [13D.02](#) is not practical or prudent because of a health pandemic or an emergency declared under chapter 12;

(2) all members of the body participating in the meeting, wherever their physical location, can hear one another and can hear all discussion and testimony;

(3) members of the public present at the regular meeting location of the body can hear all discussion and testimony and all votes of the members of the body, unless attendance at the regular meeting location is not feasible due to the health pandemic or emergency declaration;

(4) at least one member of the body, chief legal counsel, or chief administrative officer is physically present at the regular meeting location, unless unfeasible due to the health pandemic or emergency declaration; and

(5) all votes are conducted by roll call, so each member's vote on each issue can be identified and recorded.

**Subd. 2.Members are present for quorum, participation.**

Each member of the body participating in a meeting by telephone or other electronic means is considered present at the meeting for purposes of determining a quorum and participating in all proceedings.

**Subd. 3.Monitoring from remote site; costs.**

If telephone or another electronic means is used to conduct a meeting, to the extent practical, the body shall allow a person to monitor the meeting electronically from a remote location. The body may require the person making a connection to pay for the documented additional cost that the body incurs as a result of the additional connection.

**Subd. 4.Notice of regular and all member sites.**

If telephone or another electronic means is used to conduct a regular, special, or emergency meeting, the public body shall provide notice of the regular meeting location, of the fact that some members may participate by telephone or other electronic means, and of the provisions of subdivision 3. The timing and method of providing notice is governed by section [13D.04](#) of the Open Meeting Law.

**13D.04 NOTICE OF MEETINGS.**

**Subdivision 1.Regular meetings.**

A schedule of the regular meetings of a public body shall be kept on file at its primary offices. If a public body decides to hold a regular meeting at a time or place different from the time or place stated in its schedule of regular meetings, it shall give the same notice of the meeting that is provided in this section for a special meeting.

**Subd. 2.Special meetings.**

(a) For a special meeting, except an emergency meeting or a special meeting for which a notice requirement is otherwise expressly established by statute, the public body shall post written notice of the date, time, place, and purpose of the meeting on the principal bulletin board of the public body, or if the public body has no principal bulletin board, on the door of its usual meeting room.

(b) The notice shall also be mailed or otherwise delivered to each person who has filed a written request for notice of special meetings with the public body. This notice shall be posted and mailed or delivered at least three days before the date of the meeting.

(c) As an alternative to mailing or otherwise delivering notice to persons who have filed a written request for notice of special meetings, the public body may publish the notice once, at least three days before the meeting, in the official newspaper of the public body or, if there is none, in a qualified newspaper of general circulation within the area of the public body's authority.

(d) A person filing a request for notice of special meetings may limit the request to notification of meetings concerning particular subjects, in which case the public body is required to send notice to that person only concerning special meetings involving those subjects.

(e) A public body may establish an expiration date for requests for notices of special meetings pursuant to this subdivision and require refiling of the request once each year.

(f) Not more than 60 days before the expiration date of a request for notice, the public body shall send notice of the refiling requirement to each person who filed during the preceding year.