



Senate Fiscal Agency  
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## BILL ANALYSIS



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House Bill 4603 (as reported without amendment)  
Sponsor: Representative Joseph N. Bellino, Jr.  
House Committee: Agriculture  
Senate Committee: Agriculture

**CONTENT**

The bill would amend the Open Meetings Act to allow, on and after March 31, 2021, an agriculture commodity group to hold a public meeting electronically or telephonically under any circumstances.

The Open Meetings Act requires all meetings of a public body to be open to the public and to be held in a place available to the general public. All decisions of a public body must be made at a meeting open to the public. The Act allows a meeting of a public body to be held, in whole or in part, electronically by telephonic or video conferencing as prescribed by the Act under the following circumstances:

- On and after March 31, 2021, through December 31, 2021, only under those circumstances requiring accommodation of members absent because of military duty, a medical condition, or a statewide or local state of emergency or state of disaster.
- After December 31, 2021, only under circumstances requiring accommodation of members absent because of military duty.

Under the bill, on and after March 31, 2021, a public body that was an agricultural commodity group could hold a meeting, in whole or in part, electronically by telephonic or video conferencing under any circumstances, including any of the circumstances requiring accommodation of a member absent because of military duty, a medical condition, or a statewide or local state of emergency or state of disaster.

"Agricultural commodity group" would mean any of the following:

- A committee as that term is defined in the Agricultural Commodities Marketing Act.
- The State Beef Industry Commission.
- The Potato Industry Commission.
- The Michigan Bean Commission.

MCL 15.263a

Legislative Analyst: Jeff Mann

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The bill would have a minimal fiscal impact on State and local government. However, the bill could result in savings to the State if conducting meetings by video conference resulted in a lower cost as compared with in-person meetings, which may involve per diem costs paid to committee members and other in-person meeting expenses.

Date Completed: 6-23-21

Fiscal Analyst: Bruce Baker

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Bill Analysis @ [www.senate.michigan.gov/sfa](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/sfa)

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