

# COMMITTEE ON OPEN GOVERNMENT

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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## ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

KRISTIN BERGIN

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Whom it May Concern

FROM: Kristin Bergin  
Acting Executive Director, Committee on Open Government

RE: *Alert: Two-Year Extension of “Extraordinary Circumstances” Videoconferencing Amendment to the Open Meetings Law*

DATE: May 27, 2026

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On May 26, 2026, Governor Kathy Hochul signed into Law Chapter 58 of the Laws of 2026. Part OO of Chapter 58 provides for a two-year extension – without other modification – until July 15, 2028, of the amendment to the Open Meetings Law (OML) established by Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2022 expanding the use of videoconferencing by public bodies to conduct open meetings, under extraordinary circumstances. See previously issued guidance on this topic, which remains applicable, [here](#).