

Maine Labor Relations Board

Remote Participation Policy

Pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §403-B, this policy governs participation in Maine Labor Relations Board public proceedings using remote methods.

Board Members

Board members are expected to be physically present for public proceedings except when being physically present is not practicable. In such cases, a member may participate remotely through telephonic or video conferencing, with prior approval of the Chair or hearing examiner.

Circumstances in which the physical presence of one or more members is not practicable may include:

- An emergency or urgent issue that requires the public body to meet by remote methods
- Illness or other physical condition
- Temporary absence from the State
- Significant distance a member must travel to be physically present
- Transportation issues
- Inclement weather
- Other special circumstances, in the discretion of the Chair or hearing examiner

Party Representatives and Witnesses

Attorneys, parties and witnesses may participate in Board proceedings using remote methods when physical participation is not practicable, with prior approval by the Chair or hearing examiner. The Board may require such remote participation under special circumstances.

Public

When Board members are participating remotely in a public proceeding, members of the public will be provided an opportunity to access the proceeding by remote methods. The Board will provide a physical location for members of the public to attend a remote proceeding in person unless the Board is meeting remotely due to an emergency or urgent issue. If the Board proceeding includes an opportunity for public input, the Board will provide means for communication between the public and Board members. Reasonable accommodations may be provided when necessary to provide access to individuals with disabilities.