



Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium

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"Individually and collectively we invest in realizing high quality, affordable, dependable health insurance."

Resolution No. 006 – 2021 - Urging New York State to Amend New York Public Officers Law Article 7 (Open Meetings Law)

MOVED by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Wagner, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present with Mr. Salton abstaining.

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, in an effort to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus, otherwise known as COVID-19, New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo issued Executive Order 202.1 which suspended portions of Article 7 of the New York Public Officers Law "to the extent necessary to permit any public body to meet and take such actions authorized by the law without permitting in-person access to meetings and authorizing such meetings to be held remotely by videoconference, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceedings and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed," and

WHEREAS, Governor Cuomo successively extended such suspension by Executive Orders on a monthly basis through June 25, 2021, and

WHEREAS, on June 24th, 2021, by Executive Order 210, Governor Cuomo rescinded Executive Orders 202 through 202.111, including Executive Order 202.1, effective June 25, 2021, the Governor concluding that "the State of New York [has] successfully flattened the curve of COVID-19 cases in New York," and, therefore, the Executive Orders were "no longer necessary," and

WHEREAS, the Governor's rescission of Executive Order 202.1 now requires that public meetings convene in-person at a central location and allow public attendance there and at any locations from which members of the public body attend remotely by videoconference, and

WHEREAS, since the issuance of Executive Order 210, the increased prevalence of the Delta Variant of COVID-19 has caused a resurgence of coronavirus cases throughout the United States, New York State and Tompkins County, prompting local governments to reinstate public health advisories that call for the indoor masking of individuals, whether vaccinated or not, and recommend limitations on the size of indoor gatherings, including municipal meetings, and

WHEREAS, it is important that public officials, each with their individual family and health circumstances, be able to attend public meetings in a manner that allows them to maintain a level of safety that they feel is appropriate for them, and

WHEREAS, no legislative remedy to this problem of in-person public meetings mandated by OML during a global pandemic through amendment of Article 7 of the New York Public Officers Law is likely to occur before January 2022, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Operations Committee, That the Executive Committee on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium, strongly supports any amendment to Public Officers Law Article 7 (Open Meetings Law), to allow for remote attendance at meetings by members of the body.

**Resolution No. 006– 2021 - Urging New York State to Amend New York Public Officers Law
Article 7 (Open Meetings Law)**

RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be sent to The Honorable Kathy C. Hochul, Lieutenant Governor and New York Governor-Designate, the Honorable Pamela Helming, New York State Senator, Dr. Anna R. Kelles, New York State Assembly Member, and the Association of Towns of New York State.

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STATE OF NEW YORK)
) ss:
COUNTY OF TOMPKINS)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of a resolution adopted by the Executive Committee on behalf of the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium Board of Directors on September 1, 2021.



Michelle Cocco, Clerk of the GTCMHIC Board