

**RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**  
**GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES**

**Title of Rule:** Access to Open Meeting (525-RICR-10-00-1)

**Rule Identifier:** 525-RICR-10-00-1

**Rulemaking Action:** Proposed Amendment

**Important Dates:**

Date of Public Notice: December 7, 2022

End of Public Comment: January 9, 2023

**Rulemaking Authority:**

R.I. Gen. Laws 42-46-13; 42-46-5(b)(3 & 4); 42-51-6; and 42-51-6.1

**Summary of Rulemaking Action:**

This proposed amendment would streamline the process for requesting a waiver to the ban on the use of telecommunication devices by members of a public body, who due to their disability, are unable to attend in-person meetings of the public body they are on.

Sections of the rule being amended are:

1.4 REQUESTING AN OPEN MEETING TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
ACCOMMODATION WAIVER

Subsection B 1-4 and

1.4.1 Granting or Rejecting a Telecommunications Accommodation Waiver

Subsection B The

Hearing Board and Subsection E. COVID-19 Pandemic, Expedited Waivers.

**Additional Information and Public Comments:**

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed amendment until January 9, 2023 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

Bob Cooper

Governor's Commission on Disabilities

John O. Pastore Center

2 Cherry Dale Court

Cranston, RI 02831-3049

bob.cooper@gcd.ri.gov

In accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.8, an oral hearing will be granted if requested by twenty-five (25) persons, by a governmental agency or by an association having at least twenty-five (25) members. A request for an oral hearing must be made within ten (10) days of the publication of this notice.

**Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:**

D1: Describe and Quantify Who Must Comply \*

Members of public bodies with disabilities that prevent them from being physically present at

their public bodies meeting and the public bodies making reasonable accommodations for remote participation

D2: Summary of Societal Benefits and Costs to Rhode Island \*

Societal benefit ensuring the inclusion of Rhode Islanders with disabilities in governance of the state.

Minimal cost of telephone or internet for remote access of the member of the public body with disabilities.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation contact the agency staffperson listed above.