

JOINT BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEARINGS

S.B. 255 (130th General Assembly)

REVISED CODE SECTIONS EFFECTED: Enacted ORC Section 6133.041

LEAD SPONSORS: Senator Burke and Representative Brown

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 10, 2014

S.B. 155 authorizes a joint board of county commissioners to conduct hearings regarding existing joint county ditch improvements by teleconference or video conference. The act, supported by CCAO and the Ohio Newspaper Association, allows county commissioners to hold routine public meetings without traveling outside their counties and will provide citizens greater access to these proceedings. The act enacts ORC Section 6133.041; this section is included as Exhibit 1.

Ohio Revised Code Section 6133.041

As Enacted by S.B. 155 of the 130th General Assembly

Sec. 6133.041. (A) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter or Chapter 6131. of the Revised Code to the contrary, a joint board of county commissioners, when practicable, may conduct proceedings regarding existing improvements by video conference or, if video conference is not available, by teleconference. The joint board shall make provisions for public attendance at any location involved in such a proceeding. The participation of any commissioner or board of county commissioners in a video conference or teleconference shall occur at the location of the commissioners' main office or board room in an open meeting at which the public is allowed to attend.

(B) Before convening a meeting of a joint board of county commissioners by video conference or by teleconference, designated staff shall send, via electronic mail, facsimile, or United States postal service, a copy of meeting-related documents to each member of the joint board.

(C) The minutes of each joint county ditch meeting shall specify who was attending by teleconference, who was attending by video conference, and who was physically present. Any vote taken in a meeting held by teleconference that is not unanimous shall be recorded as a roll call vote.

(D) Nothing in section 121.22 of the Revised Code prohibits a joint board of county commissioners from conducting a proceeding in a manner authorized by this section.