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**AGENDA ITEM**

Action Item

Information Only

**Date:** June 11, 2021

**Item Number:** X

**Title:** Remote Participation Options at PEBP Board meetings after June 1, 2021

**BACKGROUND**

Prior to the pandemic, PEBP Board meetings were typically held in Carson City and teleconferenced to an additional location in Las Vegas. PEBP would normally send a staff member to the southern location to facilitate the meeting. In some instances when this was not possible, Board members attending in Las Vegas would be asked to facilitate.

In March 2020, Governor Sisolak issued directives temporarily suspending the requirement contained in NRS 241.023(1)(b) requiring a physical location designated for meetings of public bodies where members of the public are permitted to attend. As a result, most public meetings transitioned to virtual environments and while technical challenges continue to exist, most organizations have adapted and are quickly mastering the technology of these platforms.

**REPORT**

Effective June 1, 2021, Open Meeting Law requirements will no longer be waived and in-person public meetings will resume. Assembly Bill 253, however, if passed would allow the use of remote technology and permit agencies to hold public meetings in a virtual setting similarly to how meetings have been run during the pandemic. As of May 19<sup>th</sup>, AB253 has been heard and passed in the Assembly and had a hearing, but has not had a vote in the Senate.

Fortunately, PEBP has the ability to adapt, and IT staff have indicated that PEBP can accommodate almost any variation or option the Board chooses to implement moving forward. However, in order to locate and schedule meeting sites that will accommodate meeting needs,

PEBP staff must be able to plan accordingly. Most importantly, this discussion also provides an opportunity for public input.

Outlined below is a series of three options:

- Option 1: PEBP returns to in-person meetings. Board members, vendors and members of the public attend meetings in one of two physical locations.
- Option 2: Contingent on the passage of AB253, PEBP continues using remote technology and continues holding meetings virtually, similar to how meetings have been held during the pandemic.
- Option 3: Implement a hybrid approach. Board members, vendors and members of the public are given the choice to participate in-person in a Carson City and/or Las Vegas location or virtually using remote technology.

It is important to emphasize that the Board can elect to make changes to how meetings will be held at any time. This discussion is solely for planning purposes and does not prevent the Board from electing a different option in the future.

***Recommendation: Option 3 provides the most flexibility and allows for the most participation.***