

## ALLOW ELECTRONIC MEETINGS OF CHILDREN TRUST MICHIGAN BOARD

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<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

**House Bill 4808 as introduced**  
**Sponsor: Rep. Bryan Posthumus**  
**Committee: Government Operations**  
**Complete to 10-29-25**

Analysis available at  
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

### SUMMARY:

House Bill 4808 would amend the Open Meetings Act to allow electronic meetings to be held by the Children Trust Michigan Board.

**The Open Meetings Act** generally requires all meetings of a public body to be open to the public and held in a place available to the public, and all decisions of a public body must be made at a meeting open to the public. The act defines “public body” as any of the following:

- A state or local legislative or governing body, including a board, commission, committee, subcommittee, authority, or council, that is empowered by state constitution, statute, charter, ordinance, resolution, or rule to exercise governmental or proprietary authority or perform a governmental or proprietary function.
- A lessee of a body described above that is performing an essential public purpose and function under the lease agreement.
- The board of a nonprofit corporation formed by a city under section 40 of the Home Rule City Act.

With limited exceptions for certain specific kinds of public bodies (such as agricultural commodity groups) that can hold a meeting electronically (in whole or in part) for any reason, the act allows meetings of a public body to be held electronically or with remote participation only to accommodate the absence of one of its members due to military duty, and then only that member may participate remotely.

**Under the bill**, the Children Trust Michigan Board could hold a meeting electronically under any circumstances.<sup>1</sup>

Children Trust Michigan (formerly called the Michigan Children’s Trust Fund) is a charitable and educational endowment fund created in 1982 to provide funding and support for programs across the state with the goal of preventing child abuse and neglect.<sup>2</sup> The fund receives money through a state income tax checkoff and the sale of vehicle license plates, among other sources. Money in the trust fund is disbursed by the Children Trust Michigan Board under the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Act.

The bill cannot take effect unless House Bill 4807 is also enacted.

MCL 15.263a

<sup>1</sup> The board is now officially the State Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board. House Bill 4807 would change its name to the Children Trust Michigan Board.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.michigan.gov/ctf> and <https://www.childrentrustmichigan.org/>

## **BACKGROUND:**

In addition to other requirements for meetings held under the Open Meetings Act, meetings held electronically must be conducted in a way that allows for two-way communication so that members of the public body can hear one another, public participants can hear the members, and the members of the public body and other public participants can hear public participants during a public comment period. A public body can use technology to allow for typed comments to be submitted by public participants and read to or shared with the members of the public body and other public participants. A public body cannot require a person to register or provide their name or other information as a condition of participating in or attending an electronic meeting, except for mechanisms established and required by the public body that are necessary to allow the person to participate in a public comment period.

The public body must post advance notice of a meeting held electronically in a publicly accessible place on its website, if it has an active official internet presence, at least 18 hours before the meeting starts. The notice must include explanations of why the public body is meeting electronically and how members of the public can participate in the meeting, how members of the public can contact members of the public body, and how persons with disabilities can participate in the meeting. If there is an agenda for the meeting, it must be made available to the public at least two hours before the start of the meeting.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

House Bill 4808 would have no fiscal impact on the state or local units of government.

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.