

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA  
AO No. 2020-31**

1 **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION**  
2 **2.30.075 TO PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE DEFINITION FOR TELEPHONIC**  
3 **PARTICIPATION IN ASSEMBLY MEETINGS AND LIMITED CIRCUMSTANCES**  
4 **WHEREIN MEMBERS PARTICIPATING TELEPHONICALLY MAY COUNT FOR**  
5 **PURPOSES OF ESTABLISHING A QUORUM.**  
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8 **WHEREAS**, this ordinance accomplishes two things, updating language and  
9 quorum requirements, for the single purpose of strengthening the Assembly's  
10 abilities to meet and conduct business in emergency situations;

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12 **WHEREAS**, providing a broad definition of "telephonic participation" more  
13 accurately reflects that Assembly members may be able to participate fully in  
14 Assembly meetings by means other than a telephone, such as via video  
15 conferencing;

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17 **WHEREAS**, this ordinance carves out a narrow exception to the code's physically  
18 present requirement in cases where an emergency has been declared and allows,  
19 in those narrow situations, telephonic participants to be counted for purposes of  
20 establishing a quorum; now, therefore,

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22 **THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDAINS:**

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24 **Section 1.** Anchorage Municipal Code section 2.30.075 is hereby amended to  
25 read as follows:

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27 **2.30.075 - Absences, excused absences, and telephonic participation.**

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29 A. Unless a member is participating telephonically with advance  
30 approval of the chair, a member of the Assembly who is physically  
31 absent from a regular or special meeting, including an executive  
32 session, will be recorded as absent. A member of the assembly who  
33 is physically absent from a regular or special meeting, including an  
34 executive session, and not approved to participate telephonically,  
35 must obtain approval from the Chair for the absence to be an  
36 excused absence.

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38 B. A member of the Assembly who is participating telephonically under  
39 this section may participate in and vote at the meeting by telephone  
40 or other electronic means under the following circumstances:

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42 1. The meeting is held with a quorum of members physically  
43 present, except as expressly provided in subsection D. of this  
44 section;

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2. Reasonable technical capabilities are available at the meeting location to allow the member to participate [BY TELEPHONE], to include being able to hear and engage in discussion, and being audible to all persons participating in the meeting;
3. [PRIOR TO THE MEETING, THE] The member participating telephonically has the ability to obtain the meeting agenda and other pertinent documents to be discussed and/or acted upon; and
4. A member who is participating telephonically will have a voice vote.

C. Telephonic participation under this section shall include any means through which a member may participate remotely, to include being able to hear and engage in discussion, and being audible to all persons participating in the meeting.

D. Assembly members may meet without a quorum of the members physically present at one location when the mayor, governor, or federal government has declared an emergency only if a quorum of members are physically and/or telephonically present.

(AO No. 2017-53, § 13, 4-11-17)

**Section 2.** This ordinance shall be effective immediately upon passage and approval by the Assembly.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair of the Assembly

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Municipal Clerk