

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2021 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader**

Senate Bill 561  
Finance

(Senators Hershey and Eckardt)

Economic Matters

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**Electric Cooperatives - Meetings - Alterations**

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This bill authorizes an electric cooperative to hold annual and special meetings virtually, or with a combination of in-person and virtual attendance, and makes related administrative and conforming changes. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** An annual meeting of the members of a cooperative must be held at the time and place provided in the bylaws. A special meeting of the members of a cooperative may be called by the chairman, a majority of the board directors, or a minimum of 10% of the cooperative's members.

Unless the bylaws require the presence of a greater percentage or number of the members for a quorum, a quorum for the transaction of business at all meetings of the members of a cooperative must be (1) 5% of all members, present in person, of a cooperative that has up to 1,000 members and (2) 50 members, present in person, of a cooperative that has more than 1,000 members. If less than a quorum is present at any meeting, a majority of those present in person may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice.

Each member of a cooperative is entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members. Generally, voting must be in person. However, if the bylaws allow, voting also may be by proxy, by mail, or by electronic transmission, subject to conditions that must be specified in the bylaws. A person may not vote by proxy for more than three members at any meeting of the members.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** HB 648 (Delegate Wilson) - Economic Matters.

**Information Source(s):** Public Service Commission; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 8, 2021  
rh/lgc Third Reader - March 11, 2021

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