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**ATTORNEY GENERAL GUIDANCE ON EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 20—03
CORONA VIRUS — PUBLIC MEETINGS REQUIREMENT LIMITED WAIVER**

Nebraskans are facing unprecedented challenges to conduct open, public meetings in the face of the Coronavirus pandemic. Recommendations to limit social gatherings to fight the spread of the virus have generated several questions and concerns about the ability of public bodies to meet electronically. In response, earlier today Governor Ricketts issued Executive Order No. 20—03 (“Order”), which provides a limited waiver of certain requirements of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 84-1407 to 84-1414 (2014, Cum. Supp. 2018, Supp. 2019). The Order permits all public bodies in the state to meet by videoconferencing, telephone conference call, and other telecommunications applications, so long as members of the public and the media are provided access to the meetings in some manner. The Order requires that any public body that elects to meet by these means (1) provide reasonable advance publicized notice of its meeting and (2) prepare an agenda of items to be discussed at the meeting. *See* Neb. Rev. Stat § 84-1411(1) (Supp. 2019). Provisions in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411(2) and (3) requiring public access to videoconference and telephone conference sites are waived by the Order. All other requirements of the Act relating to closed sessions, voting, minutes, etc., must be met. The Order applies to all public meetings beginning today through May 31, 2020.