

**No. R-361. Joint resolution relating to the adoption of an emergency temporary Joint Rule 22A.**

(J.R.S.48)

By Senator Ashe,

*Whereas*, it is critical to take steps to control outbreaks of COVID-19 to minimize the risk to the public, maintain the health and safety of Vermonters and limit the spread of infection in our community;

*Whereas*, the Governor of the State of Vermont issued a Declaration of State of Emergency in Response to COVID-19 until April 15, 2020;

*Whereas*, to reduce the possible spread of COVID-19, on Friday, March 13, 2020, the Legislature adopted J.R.S. 46 relating to an interim adjournment until March 24, 2020;

*Whereas*, to confront and address the threat of COVID-19, joint committees of the Legislature must continue to meet;

*Whereas*, the rules, tradition and custom require that for a joint committee to formally meet a committee quorum must be physically present in a single location and only those physically present at the meeting location are permitted to vote;

*Whereas*, to appropriately address the needs of the State of Vermont, while limiting the threat of infection, the joint committees may need to meet and vote electronically; *now therefore be it:*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That an emergency temporary joint rule, to be designated Rule 22A, be adopted by the Senate and House of Representatives to read as follows:

Rule 22A Emergency Rule Regarding Joint Committee Meetings

(a) The Joint Rules Committee is vested with the authority to permit any joint committees of the Vermont Legislature (including itself and Conference Committees) to meet and vote electronically as the Joint Rules Committee determines appropriate;

(b) This Temporary Rule 22A shall expire on the convening of the 2021 biennial session.