

House Resolution

House resolution allowing committee members to vote remotely during the current declared emergency.

Whereas Governor Philip B Scott declared a state of emergency with regards to the COVID-19 pandemic until April 15, 2020; and

Whereas the Legislature declared a state of emergency with regards to the COVID-19 pandemic until ??? 2020; and

Whereas the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has issued guidelines for people to maintain a safe social distance of six feet and minimize gatherings to reduce the infection rates of COVID-19; and

Whereas the standing committees of the House of Representatives must meet in order to confront the threat of COVID-19 to the State of Vermont; and

Whereas in recognition of the declared state of emergency and CDC guidelines the House must complete its business in the safest manner possible to protect Vermonters; and

Whereas committees are currently authorized to allow remote participation; therefore

Be it resolved that the House of Representatives amends The Rules and Orders of the House of Representatives by adding Temporary Rule 29a to read;

29a. (a) The standing committees of the House of Representatives shall be permitted to vote remotely while the Legislature's Declaration of a State of Emergency is in effect.

(c) All other rules regarding a quorum and other rules of the committees still remain in effect.

(b) This Rules shall expire at the earlier of the (1) the convening of the 2021 biennial session; or (2) the expiration of the Legislature's Declaration of State of Emergency in response to COVID-19 and any extension of this declaration.