State of Vermont
Senate Chamber

Montpelier, Vermont
Senate Resolution

By Senator Balint,

S.R. 2. Senate resolution relating to amending the permanent rules of the Senate to include rules during Declared Emergencies.

Resolved by the Senate

First, Senate Rule 9A is added to read as follows:

Rule 9A Rule Regarding Remote Meeting and Voting of the Senate during Declared Emergencies

In the event the Governor issues a Declaration of Emergency, during the Declaration of Emergency:

(a) The Rules Committee may authorize that a session or sessions of the Senate during such declared emergency be concurrently conducted electronically at which one or more Senators may participate, debate, deliberate and vote in a meeting of the Senate from a remote location. If necessary, the Rules Committee may make this authorization remotely in conformance with this Rule.

(b) Each Senator voting remotely shall do so using both audio and video capability in a format approved by the Rules Committee.

(c) The format authorized by the Rules Committee for a session of the Senate shall enable public access in a manner consistent with Vermont's Constitution.

(d) A Senator participating remotely shall be considered present and in attendance at the meeting of the Senate, including for purposes of determining if a quorum is present. Both present and remotely connected Senators compliant with the terms of this Rule shall be counted towards a quorum of the whole.

(e) When a Senator participating remotely desires to address the Senate, the Senator shall notify the Presiding Officer through the electronic means used by the Senator to participate remotely. When recognized, the Presiding Officer shall announce the Senator and the Senator may speak through the same electronic means as if physically present on the Senate floor.

(f) To the extent practicable, a Senator participating remotely under this rule shall participate from the Senator's senatorial district.

(g) The authority of the Rules Committee under this Rule 9A terminates upon the expiration of the Declared Emergency.

Second, Senate Rule 32A is added to read as follows:

Rule 32A Rule Regarding Remote Meeting and Voting of Senate Committees during Declared Emergencies

In the event the Governor issues a Declaration of Emergency, during the Declaration of Emergency:

(a) The Rules Committee is vested with the authority to permit Senate committees (including itself) to meet and vote electronically as the Rules Committee determines appropriate. If necessary, the Rules Committee may make this authorization remotely in conformance with this Rule.

(b) In exercising its authority under section (a), the Rules Committee, to the extent applicable and practicable, shall include the provisions of Rule 9A in its authorizations.

(c) The authority of the Rules Committee under this Rule 32A terminates upon the expiration of the Declared Emergency.