By the Committee on Rules,

S.R. 17. Senate resolution extending concurrently conducted electronic sessions and committee meetings.

Whereas, Permanent Senate Rule 9A permits the Rules Committee to authorize sessions of the Senate during a declared emergency be concurrently conducted electronically; and

Whereas, Permanent Senate Rule 32A permits the Rules Committee to authorize committee meetings during a declared emergency be concurrently conducted electronically; and

Whereas, the Governor of the State of Vermont issued a Declaration of State of Emergency in Response to COVID-19 which expired at midnight on June 15, 2021; and

Whereas, S.R.9 adopted by the Senate on April 14, 2021 permitted the Senate to continue Senate Sessions pursuant to Permanent Senate Rule 9A and committee meetings pursuant to Permanent Senate Rule 32A until January 7, 2022; and

Whereas, S.R.12 adopted by the Senate on January 4, 2022 permitted the Senate to continue Senate Sessions pursuant to Permanent Senate Rule 9A and committee meetings pursuant to Permanent Senate Rule 32A until February 25, 2022; and

Whereas, the Senate desires flexibility as it commences on March 8, 2022 the transition to in person Senate Sessions and committee meetings; and

Whereas, extending the authority of the Rules Committee under Permanent Senate Rules 9 and 32A provides flexibility during the transition to in person Senate Sessions and committee meetings; now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate:

Notwithstanding the language in Permanent Senate Rules 9A and 32A regarding their applicability during Declarations of Emergency, the provisions of Permanent Senate Rules 9A and 32A regarding Senate Sessions and committee meetings shall remain in effect through March 18, 2022.