

House resolution authorizing specified, time-limited remote authority due to COVID-19

Offered by: [TBD]

Whereas, once the House of Representatives and its committees return to in-person legislating, House members may continue to be impacted by the highly-transmissible COVID-19 Omicron variant, which poses a risk to the health and safety of House members, legislative staff, and members of the public, and in the State House, that risk may be judged on the basis of known House member and staff COVID-19 case rates, and

Whereas, while the House is determined to maintain its tradition of providing members with equal access to debate and voting in House floor sessions, the House recognizes that the Omicron variant poses a special risk to the committee processes upon which House floor sessions are based, and

Whereas, the House Committee on Rules needs the flexibility to meet remotely as necessary in order to respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the House of Representatives and its committees shall return to remote operation if the Office of Speaker is made aware that there is a % rate of positive COVID-19 cases among House members and legislative staff and the Office of Speaker alerts the House of that information, in which case, the

House and its committees will return to remote operation for the duration of that week, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the House of Representatives authorizes a member of a House committee to debate and vote remotely in their committee if the member confirms with the member's committee chair that the member must be absent from committee due to symptomatic illness or COVID-19-related circumstances, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Committee on Rules is authorized to meet remotely as necessary to address COVID-19-related matters that may impact the operation of the House and its committees, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the remote authority set forth in this resolution shall expire on Monday, March 7, 2022.