

House resolution authorizing remote participation in House sessions and committees under restricted, COVID-19-related circumstances through the remainder of 2022 and 2023-24 alternative procedure convening and organizing authority

Offered by: Committee on Rules

Whereas, [2022, H.R. 17](#) authorized through Tuesday, March 8, 2022 the ability of a House member to participate remotely in House sessions and House committees if the member had “symptomatic illness or direct COVID-19 related circumstances,” and

Whereas, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose a risk to the health and safety of House members, legislative staff, and members of the public, and

Whereas, the House of Representatives wants to ensure a safe process in returning to in-person legislating and to allow remote member participation if a member is specifically impacted by COVID-19, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the House of Representatives and House committees shall return to in-person legislating, except that a member may debate and vote remotely in a House session or House committee if the member notifies the Speaker of the House that the member meets one of the following conditions:

(1) the member has tested positive for COVID-19 and is within a required period of isolation;

(2) the member has been exposed to COVID-19 as a close contact and is within a required term of quarantine;

(3) the member has COVID-19 symptoms and is awaiting the results of a PCR test;

(4) the member has a household member who relies on the member for caregiving and the household member is required to be home due to one of the reasons set forth in subdivisions (1)–(3) of this Resolved Clause or because such a household member’s daycare or school program has a short-term closure due to COVID-19; or

(5) the member provides to the Speaker of the House written documentation from a health care provider indicating that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic requires the member to participate remotely due to the member’s health condition, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the definitions, required time periods, and testing referenced in the preceding Resolved Clause are those provided by Vermont Department of Health guidelines, including any revisions or updates, *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 remain in effect through December 31, 2022, *and be it further*

Resolved: If necessary due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2022 Committee on Rules may adopt alternative procedures to allow for the safe and orderly convening and organizing of the House of Representatives for the 2023-2024 legislative biennium, including the authority to allow the House of Representatives to convene and organize that biennium in a remote manner.