

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1 am
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR STEVENS

Amended: 2/3/21
Introduced: 1/29/21

A RESOLUTION

1 **Suspending Rules 24(a) and 34(c), Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature, in**
2 **response to the COVID-19 pandemic; authorizing the presiding officers to allow**
3 **members to attend a session by videoconference or teleconference in certain**
4 **circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic; and relating to sessions where**
5 **members are authorized to attend a session by videoconference or teleconference.**

6 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

7 **WHEREAS** the World Health Organization has declared the disease caused by the
8 novel coronavirus, COVID-19, a pandemic; and

9 **WHEREAS**, under art. XV, sec. 20, Constitution of the State of Alaska, Juneau is the
10 capital and the seat of government of the State of Alaska, and the legislature must continue to
11 meet in the seat of government to the fullest extent possible; and

12 **WHEREAS**, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, it may be unsafe or impossible
13 for all members to travel to Juneau or to continue the essential business of the legislature in
14 person; and

15 **WHEREAS** the Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature may be suspended by

1 a two-thirds vote of the full membership of each house;

2 **BE IT RESOLVED** that, under Rule 54, Uniform Rules of the Alaska State
3 Legislature, the provisions of

4 (1) Rule 24(a), requiring signature by a majority of the members of the
5 committee for committee reports, are suspended during the Thirty-Second Alaska State
6 Legislature to the extent necessary to authorize a member of the committee to vote by
7 videoconference to report a bill from committee; if a member is prevented from participating
8 by videoconference in a committee meeting because of technological reasons, including
9 internet service interruption or other unavoidable technological complications, the presiding
10 officer may allow the member to vote to report the bill from committee by teleconference; the
11 vote at a meeting held under this paragraph shall be taken by roll call, and the committee
12 report must be in writing, signed by the chair, and approved by a majority of the members of
13 the committee;

14 (2) Rule 34(c), regarding voting procedure, are suspended during the Thirty-
15 Second Alaska State Legislature when attendance of members by videoconference is
16 authorized by the presiding officer to allow a member attending a session by videoconference
17 to vote in a roll call vote by videoconference; when attendance of members by
18 videoconference is authorized by the presiding officer, the electronic voting machine may be
19 used by a member voting from the member's desk and may be used to tally roll call votes cast
20 by members by videoconference; and be it

21 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that, by agreement of the presiding officers of both houses,
22 the presiding officer may authorize a member to attend a session by videoconference when
23 the member is in quarantine or has contracted COVID-19 or when necessary to establish a
24 quorum if the legislature cannot physically meet because of the COVID-19 pandemic; and be
25 it

26 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that, when attendance of members by videoconference is
27 authorized by the presiding officer,

28 (1) the presiding officer must be physically present in the capitol when
29 conducting a session;

30 (2) a member participating by videoconference is considered present for
31 quorum purposes under Uniform Rule 14(a);

1 (3) a member participating by videoconference must be physically present at a
2 Legislative Information Office or the member's legislative office, unless otherwise approved
3 by the presiding officer; and

4 (4) the identity of each member participating by videoconference must be
5 verified and the actions of each participating member must be authenticated in a manner
6 satisfactory to the presiding officer; the videoconference must enable each participating
7 member to hear or read the comments of a member who is recognized by the presiding
8 officer; and be it

9 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that, if the presiding officer has authorized members to
10 attend a session by videoconference and there are technological reasons, including internet
11 service interruption or other unavoidable technological complications, that prevent members
12 from participating by videoconference, the presiding officer may allow members to attend a
13 session by teleconference; a member allowed to participate by teleconference under this
14 provision will be regarded as participating by videoconference for purposes of this resolution;
15 and be it

16 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution remains in effect for the duration of the
17 regular or special session in which attendance of members by videoconference is first
18 authorized by the presiding officers.