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SENATE RESOLUTION 1

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SPECIAL SESSION, 2020

INTRODUCED BY

Linda M. Lopez

A RESOLUTION

ENACTING AND SUSPENDING CERTAIN SENATE RULES FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE TO ALLOW REMOTE PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS AND PROVIDE PROCEDURES TO CONDUCT PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE DURING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, Senate Rule 24-1 provides that the rules of the senate may be amended by a two-thirds' majority vote of the members of the senate or by a majority vote of the members of the senate upon the recommendation of the rules committee;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the following new senate rules, effective for the remainder of the fifty-fourth legislature, be adopted to read:

"4-1-1 The president shall ensure that all members, staff and employees who are physically present in the

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1 senate, galleries, lobby, senate committee rooms and
2 rooms connected therewith follow proper social
3 distancing, including by limiting the number of
4 persons physically present, and are provided with
5 appropriate personal protection equipment during a
6 declared public health emergency. The presiding
7 officer shall ensure that each member wear a mask
8 that covers the mouth and nose while on the floor or
9 in committee."; and

10 "7-1-1 A senator shall be considered to be present and in
11 attendance for the purposes of establishing a quorum
12 if the member is physically present or in the
13 senator's capitol office as confirmed by the
14 presiding officer of the senate, or chair in the
15 case of a standing committee. Senators are strongly
16 encouraged to remain in their respective offices
17 when not on the floor, in committee or in caucus and
18 to remain in the capitol or advise their respective
19 whip if they must leave for any reason."; and

20 "7-1-2 A senator who has tested positive for coronavirus
21 disease 2019 or who has actual knowledge of a person
22 who has tested positive for coronavirus disease 2019
23 with whom the senator has been in personal contact
24 shall inform the senator's respective floor leader
25 or whip. The senator may be excused or shall

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1 self-isolate in the senator's capitol office. The
2 senator participating from the senator's capitol
3 office due to a positive test for coronavirus
4 disease 2019 or exposure to someone who has tested
5 positive for coronavirus disease 2019 shall be
6 provided with the opportunity to debate and vote by
7 electronic means from that senator's office and
8 shall be considered present for the purposes of a
9 quorum or a call of the senate. A senator who is
10 self-isolating in the senator's office shall
11 continue in self-isolation until advised by a
12 medical professional that self-isolation is no
13 longer necessary."; and

14 "7-5-1 A senator who is present from the senator's capitol
15 office may vote by entering the senate chamber and
16 casting the senator's vote from the well of the
17 senate in front of the chief clerk or entering the
18 doorway of the senate chamber and casting the
19 senator's vote for the chief clerk to hear and
20 record."; and

21 "7-8-1 A senator who is present from the senator's capitol
22 office during a session and wishes to be recognized
23 shall contact the senator's respective floor leader
24 or whip, who shall then request the president to add
25 that member's name to the list of senators desiring

1 to be recognized. A senator who is present on the
2 senate floor from the senator's capitol office may
3 debate by entering the senate chamber and debating
4 from the well of the senate or entering the doorway
5 of the senate chamber and debating with a microphone
6 from the doorway."; and

7 "11-9-2 Electronic signatures may be used by sponsors to
8 sign bills, resolutions or memorials or amendments
9 thereto."; and

10 "11-21-1 Committee reports on a bill, resolution or memorial
11 may be digitally signed and electronically
12 transmitted from the committee to the chief clerk."; and
13

14 "23-4-2 The sergeant-at-arms shall, at the direction of the
15 president, mark off and reserve sufficient seating
16 in the gallery for the families of members of the
17 senate. Admission to this reserved area shall be by
18 passes issued by the chief clerk and signed by a
19 member. Family members shall observe social
20 distancing guidelines."; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Senate Rules 23-3 and 23-4-1
22 be suspended, effective for the remainder of the fifty-fourth
23 legislature.