

State of Vermont
House of Representatives
Montpelier, Vermont



House Resolution

H.R. 17

House resolution allowing committee members to vote remotely during the current declared emergency

Offered by Representatives Johnson of South Hero, Krowinski of Burlington, McCoy of Poultney, LaClair of Barre Town, Long of Newfane, Bartholomew of Hartland and Donahue of Northfield

Whereas Governor Philip B. Scott declared a state of emergency with regards to the COVID-19 pandemic until April 15, 2020; and

Whereas the House of Representatives declared a State of Emergency until May 1, 2020, and

Whereas the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has issued guidelines for people to maintain a safe social distance of six feet and minimize gatherings to reduce the infection rates of COVID-19, and

Whereas the standing committees of the House of Representatives must meet in order to confront the threat of COVID-19 to the State of Vermont, and

Whereas in recognition of the declared state of emergency and CDC guidelines the House must complete its business in the safest manner possible to protect Vermonters, and

Whereas to allow access to the proceedings of the committees of the House of Representatives, members of the public and press shall have access to live streaming of these remote proceedings, and

Whereas committees are currently authorized to allow remote participation; therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the House of Representatives amends The Rules and Orders of the House of Representatives by adding Temporary Rule 29a to read;

29a. (a) The standing committees of the House of Representatives shall be permitted to vote remotely while the Legislature's Declaration of a State of Emergency is in effect.

(b) All other rules regarding a quorum and other rules of the committees still remain in effect.

(c) This Rule shall expire at the earlier of the (1) the convening of the 2021 biennial session; or (2) the expiration of the House's Declaration of Emergency in response to COVID-19 and any extension of this declaration by a Joint Resolution or a House Resolution.