

House resolution further extending the House’s declaration of a state of emergency and authorizing alternative procedures as necessary thereafter

Offered by: Committee on Rules

Whereas, on the first day of the 2021–22 biennium, the House adopted [H.R. 1](#) (declaring a state of emergency), which declared a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic for the House’s rules and procedures through March 9, 2021, and

Whereas, temporary [House Rules 9a and 29a](#)—which the House also adopted on the first day of the biennium via [H.R. 2](#) (authorizing remote debate and voting in the House and House committees)—allow the House and **its committees** to vote remotely and engage in debate remotely while the House’s declaration of a state of emergency is in effect, and

Whereas, the House extended its declaration of a state of emergency through May 15, 2021 via [H.R. 8](#) (extending the House’s declaration of a state of emergency), and

Whereas, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to require that the House and **its committees** be authorized to participate remotely in order to permit the House to conduct its business in the safest manner possible to prevent the spread of COVID-19 throughout Vermont communities, now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the House of Representatives extends its declaration of a state of emergency through **May 22, 2021**, through any 2021 veto session, and through the 30 days following the date on which the Governor **rescinds all remaining capacity restrictions at gatherings and events and mask and physical distancing requirements issued under** Governor’s Declaration of a State of Emergency in Response to COVID-19 **as determined by the House Committee on Rules**, and be it further

Resolved: If the Governor thereafter **reissues capacity restrictions at gatherings and events or requires masks and physical distancing in** response to COVID-19, the House Committee on Rules is authorized to meet remotely and is authorized to permit the House of Representatives and **its committees** to meet, debate, and vote remotely, and be it further

Resolved: If, during a time in which the Governor has not **imposed capacity restrictions at gatherings and events or required masks and physical distancing** in response to COVID-19—but during which time the House of Representatives cannot meet in the House chamber according to its rules due to any State House construction, the inability to comply with Centers for Disease Control guidelines, or other similar reasons—the House Committee on Rules is authorized to adopt alternative procedures that allow **the House** to meet,

debate, and vote in-person in a different manner within the chamber or at another physical location.

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