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DRAFT; FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The Committee on Rules to which was referred Joint Senate Resolution No. 24 entitled “Joint resolution relating to amending temporary Joint Rule 22A” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the House propose to the Senate that the resolution be amended by striking out all after the title and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That Temporary Joint Rule 22A is amended to read as follows:

Rule 22A Emergency Rule Regarding Joint Committee Meetings

(a) The Joint Rules Committee is vested with the authority to permit any joint committees of the Vermont Legislature (including itself and Conference Committees) to meet and vote electronically as the Joint Rules Committee determines appropriate. If necessary, the Joint Rules Committee may make this authorization remotely in conformity with this Rule.

OPTION A for (b): Structure similar to H.R.11 (termination of remote authority for House and House committees)

(b) The authority of the Joint Rules Committee under this Rule 22A ~~terminates upon the expiration of the Executive’s Declared Emergency shall~~ only be in effect through May 22, 2021 or through days subsequent to that date as authorized by the Joint Rules Committee if required in order to allow the

1 Legislature to complete its business to adjourn prior to any 2021 veto session;
2 through any 2021 veto session; and through the 30 days following the date on
3 which the Governor rescinds all remaining capacity restrictions at gatherings
4 and events and mask and physical distancing requirements issued under the
5 Governor’s Declaration of a State of Emergency in Response to COVID-19 as
6 determined by the Joint Rules Committee.

7 **OPTION B for (b): Potential streamlining of language d/t application to**
8 **joint committees only**

9 (b) The authority of the Joint Rules Committee under this Rule 22A
10 ~~terminates upon the expiration of the Executive’s Declared Emergency shall~~
11 only be in effect through the 30 days following the date on which the Governor
12 rescinds all remaining capacity restrictions at gatherings and events and mask
13 and physical distancing requirements issued under the Governor’s Declaration
14 of a State of Emergency in Response to COVID-19 as determined by the Joint
15 Rules Committee.

16 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this rule, if the
17 Governor thereafter reissues capacity restrictions at gatherings and events or
18 requires masks and physical distancing in response to COVID-19, the Joint
19 Rules Committee is again authorized to meet remotely and to permit any joint
20 committees of the Legislature to meet and vote electronically as the Joint Rules
21 Committee determines appropriate., and be it further

1 **Resolved:** If the Joint Rules Committee determines that public access to the
2 State House or other legislative meeting spaces must be restricted or
3 conditioned due to air quality or construction, the inability to comply with
4 Centers for Disease Control guidelines, or other similar reasons, the Joint
5 Rules Committee is authorized to issue orders to the Sergeant at Arms that
6 restrict or otherwise condition that public access.
7 and that after passage the title of the resolution be amended to read: “Joint
8 resolution relating to amending temporary Joint Rule 22A and to public access
9 to the State House or other legislative meeting spaces”

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(Committee vote: _____)

Representative _____

FOR THE COMMITTEE