

House resolution authorizing remote participation in House sessions and committees under restricted, COVID-related circumstances through the remainder of 2022 and 2023-24 alternative procedure organizing authority

Offered by: [TBD]

Whereas, [2022, H.R. 17](#) authorized through Tuesday, March 8, 2022 the ability of a House member to participate remotely in House sessions and House committees if the member had “symptomatic illness or direct COVID-19 related circumstances,” and

Whereas, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose a risk to the health and safety of House members, legislative staff, and members of the public, and

Whereas, the House of Representatives wants to ensure a safe process in returning to in-person legislating and to allow remote member participation if a member is specifically impacted by COVID-19, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the House of Representatives and House committees shall return to in-person legislating, except that a member may debate and vote remotely in a House session or House committee if the member notifies the Speaker of the House in the case of a House session, and the Speaker of the House and the member’s committee chair in the case of a House committee, that the member meets one of the following conditions:

(1) the member has tested positive for COVID-19 and is within a required period of isolation;

(2) the member has been exposed to COVID-19 as a close contact and is within a required term of quarantine;

(3) the member has COVID-19 symptoms and is awaiting the results of a PCR test; or

(4) the member has a **family household** member who relies on the member for caregiving and the **family household** member is required to be home due to one of the reasons set forth in subdivisions (1)-(3) of this Resolved Clause or because **such a household member's** daycare or school program has a short-term closure due to COVID-19, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the **definitions**, required time periods, and testing described in the preceding Resolved Clause are those provided by Vermont Department of Health guidelines, including any revisions or updates, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Committee on Rules is authorized to meet remotely as necessary to address COVID-19-related matters that may impact the operation of the House and its committees, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the hybrid and remote authority set forth in this resolution shall remain in effect through the remainder of 2022, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the 2022 Committee on Rules shall have authority to adopt alternative procedures for the safe return of the House of Representatives in

(dr req HCO22-010 – draft 2.1)
2/23/2022 - BAW - 1:30 PM

Page 3 of 3

organizing the 2023-2024 biennium, including the authority to allow the House
to organize in a remote manner.