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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 142 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY K. WARD AND COSTA, JUNE 14, 2021

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REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, JUNE 14, 2021

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A RESOLUTION

1 Amending the Rules of the Senate, further providing for  
2 temporary emergency Rules of the Senate.

3 RESOLVED, That Rule 38 of the Rules of the Senate of  
4 Pennsylvania be amended to read:

5 Rule 38. Temporary emergency Rules of the Senate.

6 (a) Continuity of legislative operations.--In order to  
7 maintain the continuity of the legislative operations of the  
8 Senate and protect the health, safety and welfare of the  
9 residents of the Commonwealth, based on the declaration of  
10 disaster emergency issued by the Governor on March 6, 2020, the  
11 effect of which makes the convening of some or all of the  
12 members of the Senate as a body in the Senate chamber of the  
13 Capitol Building or at a single location imprudent, inexpedient  
14 or impossible, the following apply:

15 (1) Notwithstanding Rules 6 and 7 the following apply:

16 (i) In the absence of the Secretary-Parliamentarian  
17 and the Chief Clerk and subject to the direction of the  
18 President Pro Tempore, the Assistant Secretary shall

1 attest all writs, warrants and subpoenas issued by order  
2 of the Senate and shall certify as to the passage of  
3 Senate bills and the approval of executive nominations.

4 (ii) In the absence of both officers and the  
5 Assistant Secretary, the President Pro Tempore shall  
6 designate a signatory.

7 (3) Notwithstanding Rule 14(h), members may remotely  
8 participate in committee meetings as follows:

9 (i) A quorum shall be established through a roll  
10 call.

11 (ii) Technology employed for remote committee  
12 meetings must safeguard the integrity of the legislative  
13 process and maintain the deliberative character of the  
14 meeting by providing for simultaneous aural and verbal  
15 communication among all participants.

16 (4) Notwithstanding Rule 14, the following apply:

17 (i) The President Pro Tempore may appoint a Senator  
18 to serve in a temporary capacity as a member of a  
19 committee, serving only for the duration of a single  
20 session day for a particular committee meeting.

21 (ii) The President Pro Tempore shall transmit this  
22 designation to the Secretary-Parliamentarian for  
23 retention during the two-year legislative session, and  
24 this record shall be available for public inspection upon  
25 request.

26 (iii) The communication shall be read across the  
27 desk and printed in the Senate Journal on the next  
28 legislative day of the Senate.

29 (5) In addition to the provisions of Rule 14, the  
30 following apply:

1 (i) Regulations may be deposited with the  
2 Legislative Reference Bureau.

3 (ii) The bureau shall transmit the regulations to  
4 the appropriate committee for consideration within 24  
5 hours.

6 (iii) The bureau shall transmit notice of the  
7 transmission of the regulations to the Secretary-  
8 Parliamentarian.

9 (iv) The time for consideration shall begin on the  
10 date the committee receives the regulations from the  
11 bureau.

12 (6) In addition to the provisions of Rule 17, the  
13 following apply:

14 (i) Members participating remotely may cast votes  
15 for all measures considered and brought to a vote by the  
16 committee, as if the members were physically present at  
17 the committee meeting.

18 (ii) The identity of the voting member must be  
19 verified by the Chair.

20 (iii) A member may also vote on matters before the  
21 committee pursuant to Rule 16(3).

22 (7) Notwithstanding Rule 20, members may remotely  
23 participate in the session of the Senate as follows:

24 (i) Members participating remotely may cast votes  
25 for all measures considered and brought to a vote during  
26 session, as if the members were physically present at the  
27 session of the Senate.

28 (ii) The identity of the voting member must be  
29 verified by the presiding officer.

30 (iii) Technology employed for remote participation

1 in Senate session must safeguard the integrity of the  
2 legislative process and maintain the deliberative  
3 character of the session by providing for simultaneous  
4 aural and verbal communication among all participants.

5 (iv) A member may also vote as provided in Rule  
6 20(b)(1) and (2).

7 (8) Notwithstanding Rule 23, the Chief Clerk may provide  
8 for remote participation technology that enables members to  
9 participate in committee meetings and Senate session.

10 (9) Notwithstanding Rule 27, the following apply:

11 (i) Senators participating remotely in the session  
12 of the Senate shall be counted for the purpose of  
13 determining a quorum.

14 (ii) A quorum shall be established through a roll  
15 call if the identity of the voting member is identified  
16 by the presiding officer.

17 (10) This rule shall expire July 1, 2021, [or 10 days  
18 following the expiration of the emergency declaration,  
19 whichever is earlier,] unless otherwise further extended in  
20 accordance with the Rules of the Senate.

21 (b) Definitions.--As used in this Rule, the following words  
22 and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this  
23 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

24 "Remote participation." Simultaneous, interactive  
25 participation in a committee meeting by committee members not  
26 physically present at the location of the meeting, through means  
27 of communication technologies designed to accommodate and  
28 facilitate such simultaneous, interactive participation.