

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

**SENATE RESOLUTION**

No. **318** Session of  
2020

---

INTRODUCED BY CORMAN AND COSTA, MARCH 18, 2020

---

INTRODUCED, MARCH 18, 2020

---

A RESOLUTION

1 Adopting temporary emergency Rules of the Senate.

2 WHEREAS, The purpose of these rules is to maintain the  
3 continuity of the legislative operations of the Senate, which in  
4 turn, protects the health, safety and welfare of the residents  
5 of this Commonwealth; and

6 WHEREAS, These rules are predicated upon the declaration of  
7 disaster emergency issued by the Governor on March 6, 2020, the  
8 effect of which makes the convening of some or all of the  
9 members of the Senate as a body in the Senate Chamber of the  
10 Capitol Building or at a single location imprudent, inexpedient  
11 or impossible; and

12 WHEREAS, The Rules of the Senate for the 203rd and 204th  
13 Regular Session, as adopted in Senate Resolution No. 3,  
14 Printer's No. 3 (2019), on January 1, 2019, remain in full force  
15 and effect; the only changes to those Rules are as provided in  
16 this resolution; and

17 WHEREAS, Printing of documents may be impaired because of  
18 remote operation of the administrative duties and proceedings of

1 the Senate; therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That, notwithstanding Rules 6 and 7 of the Senate:

3 in the absence of the Secretary-Parliamentarian and the  
4 Chief Clerk and subject to the direction of the President Pro  
5 Tempore, the Assistant Secretary shall attest all writs,  
6 warrants and subpoenas issued by order of the Senate and  
7 shall certify as to the passage of Senate bills and the  
8 approval of executive nominations; and

9 in the absence of both officers and the Assistant  
10 Secretary, the President pro tempore shall designate a  
11 signatory;

12 and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That, notwithstanding Rule 9 of the Senate, there  
14 shall be no guest introductions; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That, notwithstanding Rule 9 of the Senate, there  
16 shall be no consideration of unanimous consent resolutions; and  
17 be it further

18 RESOLVED, That, notwithstanding Rule 12(k) of the Senate, a  
19 sponsor may electronically file with the Secretary-  
20 Parliamentarian for introduction a bill imprinted with the stamp  
21 of the Legislative Reference Bureau; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That, notwithstanding Rule 14(h) of the Senate,  
23 members may remotely participate in committee meetings as  
24 follows:

25 remote participation means simultaneous, interactive  
26 participation in a committee meeting by committee members not  
27 physically present at the location of the meeting, through  
28 means of communication technologies designed to accommodate  
29 and facilitate such simultaneous, interactive participation;  
30 committee members participating remotely shall be counted

1 for the purpose of determining a quorum;  
2 a quorum shall be established through a roll call; and  
3 technology employed for remote committee meetings must  
4 safeguard the integrity of the legislative process and  
5 maintain the deliberative character of the meeting by  
6 providing for simultaneous, aural and verbal communication  
7 among all participants;

8 and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That, notwithstanding Rule 14 of the Senate:

10 the President pro tempore may appoint a senator to serve  
11 in a temporary capacity as a member of a committee, serving  
12 only for the duration of a single session day for a  
13 particular committee meeting;

14 the President pro tempore shall transmit this designation  
15 to the Secretary-Parliamentarian for retention during the  
16 two-year legislative session, and this record shall be  
17 available for public inspection upon request; and

18 the communication shall be read across the desk and  
19 printed in the Senate journal on the next legislative day of  
20 the Senate;

21 and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That, in addition to the provisions of Rule 14 of  
23 the Senate:

24 regulations shall be deposited with the Legislative  
25 Reference Bureau;

26 the bureau shall transmit the regulations to the  
27 appropriate committee for consideration within 24 hours;

28 the bureau shall transmit notice of the transmission of  
29 the regulations to the Secretary-Parliamentarian; and

30 the time for consideration shall begin on the date the

1 committee receives the regulations from the bureau;

2 and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That, in addition to the provisions of Rule 17 of  
4 the Senate:

5 members participating remotely may cast votes for all  
6 measures considered and brought to a vote by the committee,  
7 as if the members were physically present at the committee  
8 meeting;

9 the identity of the voting member must be verified by the  
10 Chair; and

11 a member may also vote on matters before the committee  
12 pursuant to Rule 16(3);

13 and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That, notwithstanding Rule 20 of the Senate,  
15 members may remotely participate in the session of the Senate:

16 members participating remotely may cast votes for all  
17 measures considered and brought to a vote during session, as  
18 if the members were physically present at the session of the  
19 Senate;

20 the identity of the voting member must be verified by the  
21 Presiding Officer;

22 technology employed for remote participation in Senate  
23 session must safeguard the integrity of the legislative  
24 process and maintain the deliberative character of the  
25 session by providing for simultaneous, aural and verbal  
26 communication among all participants; and

27 a member may also vote as provided in Rule 20(b)(1) and  
28 (2);

29 and be it further

30 RESOLVED, Notwithstanding Rule 23 of the Senate, the Chief

1 Clerk may provide for remote participation technology that  
2 enables members to participate in committee meetings and Senate  
3 Session; and be it further

4       RESOLVED, That, notwithstanding Rule 27 of the Senate:

5             Senators participating remotely in the session of the  
6       Senate shall be counted for the purpose of determining a  
7       quorum; and

8             a quorum shall be established through a roll call if the  
9       identity of the voting member is identified by the Presiding  
10      Officer;

11 and be it further

12       RESOLVED, That this resolution shall expire July 31, 2020, or  
13 10 days following the expiration of the emergency declaration,  
14 whichever is earlier, unless otherwise further extended in  
15 accordance with the Rules of the Senate.