

**(Senate Resolution 318, adopted March 18, 2020)**

**A RESOLUTION**

Adopting temporary emergency Rules of the Senate.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Printing of documents may be impaired because of remote operation of the administrative duties and proceedings of the Senate; therefore be it

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

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

in the absence of both officers and the Assistant Secretary, the President pro tempore shall designate a signatory;  
and be it further

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That, notwithstanding Rule 14(h) of the Senate, members may remotely participate in

committee meetings as follows:

remote participation means simultaneous, interactive participation in a committee meeting by committee members not physically present at the location of the meeting, through means of communication technologies designed to accommodate and facilitate such simultaneous, interactive participation;

committee members participating remotely shall be counted for the purpose of determining a quorum;

a quorum shall be established through a roll call; and

technology employed for remote committee meetings must safeguard the integrity of the legislative process and maintain the deliberative character of the meeting by providing for simultaneous, aural and verbal communication among all participants;

and be it further

RESOLVED, That, notwithstanding Rule 14 of the Senate:

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

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

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

and be it further

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

regulations shall be deposited with the Legislative Reference Bureau;

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

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

the time for consideration shall begin on the date the committee receives the regulations from the bureau;

and be it further

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

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

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

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

and be it further

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

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

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

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

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

and be it further

RESOLVED, Notwithstanding Rule 23 of the Senate, the Chief Clerk may provide for remote participation technology that enables members to participate in committee meetings and Senate Session; and be it further

RESOLVED, That, notwithstanding Rule 27 of the Senate:

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

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

and be it further

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