

1 A RESOLUTION

2 AMENDING THE HOUSE RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE FIRST SPECIAL
3 SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE TO ALLOW REMOTE
4 PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS AND PROVIDING PROCEDURES TO CONDUCT
5 PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE DURING THE CURRENT PUBLIC HEALTH
6 EMERGENCY.

7
8 WHEREAS, House Rule 24-1 provides that the rules of the
9 house of representatives may be amended by a two-thirds' vote
10 of all the members of the house or by a majority vote of the
11 members of the house upon the recommendation of the house
12 rules and order of business committee;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
14 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the following
15 new house rules, effective only for the first special session
16 of the fifty-fourth legislature, be adopted to read:

17 "4-1-1 The speaker shall ensure that all members, staff
18 and employees who are physically present in the
19 house, galleries, lobby, house committee rooms and
20 rooms connected therewith follow proper social
21 distancing and shall ensure that they are provided
22 with appropriate personal protective equipment.";
23 and

24 "7-1-1 A member shall be considered to be present and in
25 attendance for the purposes of establishing a

1 quorum, doing business or voting if the member is
2 physically present or participating by
3 simultaneous, remote, electronic or telephonic
4 means as confirmed by the speaker, or chair in the
5 case of a standing committee."; and

6 "7-4-2 Completion of a call of the house shall be verified
7 by the chief clerk via a roll call vote."; and

8 "7-8-1 A member who is not physically present during a
9 session and wishes to be recognized shall contact
10 that member's respective floor leader, whip or
11 caucus chair, who shall then request the speaker to
12 add that member's name to the list of members
13 desiring to be recognized or to use an electronic
14 system operated by the chief clerk."; and

15 "7-13-1 A member who is present and is called to order is
16 not permitted to resume speaking until the speaker
17 has determined whether the member is in order; and
18 if decided to be out of order, the member shall not
19 proceed without the permission of the house."; and

20 "11-9-2 Electronic signatures may be used by sponsors to
21 sign bills, resolutions or memorials and
22 amendments."; and

23 "11-21-2 Committee reports on a bill, resolution or memorial
24 may be digitally signed and electronically
25 transmitted from the committee to the chief

1 clerk."; and

2 "23-3-1 Accommodations for the press will be made in
3 accordance with public health guidelines as
4 outlined by the legislative council service."; and

5 "23-8-2 If at any time during standing committee hearings
6 or floor sessions, the live audio and video stream
7 of those sessions ceases to function, upon notice
8 of the outage the presiding officer shall
9 immediately recess, subject to the call of the
10 presiding officer, until the stream is able to
11 resume."; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following house rules,
13 effective only for the first special session of the fifty-
14 fourth legislature, be amended to read:

15 "6-1 The sergeant-at-arms or his designee, except when
16 absent in the discharge of his duties, shall be in
17 attendance upon the sessions of house and enforce
18 order on the floor of the house and in the lobbies,
19 galleries and passages and rooms connected
20 therewith and see that no person remains on the
21 floor of the house unless entitled to privileges
22 thereof."; and

23 "7-1 Every member of the house shall maintain his or her
24 presence in the house chamber, either physically or
25 by simultaneous, remote, electronic or telephonic

1 means, during each session, unless prevented by
2 sickness or excused by the speaker in writing. The
3 excuse shall be filed with the chief clerk."; and
4 "7-2 A quorum of the house is a majority of the members
5 elected, qualified and present. When a lesser
6 number than a quorum of the house convenes at any
7 authorized session, those present may send the
8 sergeant-at-arms for the absent members and may
9 compel their attendance. During any session of the
10 house, the members present may take such action as
11 they deem necessary to secure the presence of the
12 absentees and, in addition to suspension for a
13 certain period, may inflict censure or penalty as
14 they think just on those who do not send a
15 sufficient excuse for their absence."; and

16 "7-3 If at any time during the session of the house a
17 question is raised by any member as to the presence
18 of a quorum, the speaker shall forthwith direct a
19 roll call and shall announce the result, and such
20 proceedings shall not be interrupted by any other
21 member raising the question of a lack of quorum.
22 The question as to the presence of a quorum shall
23 not be raised more often than once every hour,
24 unless the lack of a quorum is disclosed upon a
25 roll call of yeas and nays. Whenever, upon a roll

1 call, any member who is present refuses to respond
2 or vote, it is the duty of the speaker, either upon
3 his own motion or upon the suggestion of any
4 member, to request that member to respond or vote.
5 If the member fails to respond or vote when so
6 requested, the fact of such request and refusal
7 shall be entered in the journal and such member
8 shall not be counted as present for the purpose of
9 constituting a quorum."; and

10 "7-13

When a member is called to order, he or she shall
11 refrain from speaking until the speaker has
12 determined whether he or she is in order or not;
13 and if decided to be out of order, he or she shall
14 not proceed without the permission of the house.
15 Every question of order shall be decided by the
16 speaker, subject to an appeal to the house. No
17 second appeal shall be determined until the
18 original appeal has been decided. If a member is
19 called to order for words spoken, the words
20 excepted to shall be immediately taken down in
21 writing."; and

22 "9-5-6

All deliberations, hearings, decisions and other
23 official business of committees shall be conducted
24 in meetings open to the public, provided that
25 public participation shall be limited to webcasts

1 of committee meetings and public testimony
2 submitted to a committee electronically at the
3 discretion of the chair, except for deliberations
4 and hearings relating to allegations of unethical
5 conduct brought before the house rules and order of
6 business committee or subcommittee, unless a public
7 hearing is requested by the representative against
8 whom the allegation is made."; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that House Rules 7-14, 11-20-1,
10 Subsection (b) of House Rule 23-2 and House Rules 23-3 through
11 23-4-1 be suspended, effective only for the first special
12 session of the fifty-fourth legislature. _____

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