

Amendments to the Joint Rules by
Polling of the Legislature
Requested by Senator Fred Thomas
For the Joint Rules Committee
Prepared by Julianne Burkhardt
September 16, 2020

1. **INSERT NEW JOINT RULE 10-190 -- "10-190. Procedure to participate remotely or by electronic means.** (1) (a) To request permission to participate in a legislative session remotely or by electronic means, a member shall provide a physician's note explaining the basis for the member's remote or electronic participation to the Legislative Attendance Panel, which is composed of:

- (i) the Senate President;
- (ii) the Speaker of the House;
- (iii) the Senate Minority Leader; and
- (iv) the House Minority Leader.

(b) If one of the leaders is the subject of the request or is not available, the Pro Tempore or Minority Whip of the same caucus shall serve as the replacement or appoint a designee.

(2) (a) The Legislative Attendance Panel shall determine whether the basis for the member's remote participation is acceptable and whether the member is excused from being physically present in the Capitol building and is allowed to participate in the legislative session remotely or by electronic means.

(b) All meetings, requests for remote or electronic participation, physician's notes, documents, discussions, deliberations, and decisions of the Legislative Attendance Panel, as well as the identity of the requestor, are closed and must remain confidential.

(c) The right of individual privacy is a fundamental constitutional right expressly recognized as essential to the well-being of our society. Although members are in a position of public trust and in some situations have a diminished expectation of privacy, in this situation the privacy of their health care information is inviolable.