

**From:** [Everts, Todd](#)  
**To:** [Fox, Susan](#)  
**Cc:** [Hom, Fong](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] House Rules rewrite  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 6, 2020 1:41:39 PM  
**Attachments:** [House rules rewrite.docx](#)

---

---

**From:** JP Pomnichowski <pomnicho@gmail.com> **On Behalf Of** JP Pomnichowski  
**Sent:** Friday, October 2, 2020 2:51 PM  
**To:** Everts, Todd <teverts@mt.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] House Rules rewrite

Mr. Everts,

I had some help in going through the House rules so the write-up includes just the sections in the House rules that need to be amended. I'm sure you can assess what to recommend, or not.

JP Pomnichowski  
Montana State Senator, District 33, Bozeman  
[pomnicho@montanadsl.net](mailto:pomnicho@montanadsl.net)    [jp.pomnichowski@mtleg.gov](mailto:jp.pomnichowski@mtleg.gov)

*Legislators are publicly elected officials. Legislator emails sent or received involving legislative business may be subject to the Right to Know provisions of the Montana Constitution and may be considered a public record per Montana law. As such, email, sent or received, its sender and receiver, and the email contents may be subject to public disclosure.*

--- --- --- ---

For the sections I thought needed work to make a hybrid or remote session work I highlighted the word in red. If I had a suggestion that did not necessarily revolve around a word I put my comment in bold and in parentheses. I searched all of the words you gave me as well as the following:

sitting  
present and voting  
House floor  
transmittal

What I did not include in the attached document were rules that referenced activities that might be irrelevant in a remote session but not worth the time to change such as Lobbyists, who are allowed on the House floor, Sgt at Arms duties, who may sit in your chair, recording the time and place of a meeting, etc. Probably some of that should change if we were starting from scratch.

One item I did not see, perhaps it is more policy than rule, is how to be recognized for a point of order or privilege on the Floor. In the past we have stood up but that can't happen remotely. Several places it says a Rep can assert a point but there is the technical difficulty of how to stand or be recognized.

I did read through the rules after completing the searches but did not see any additional items that stuck out.

**We should include:**

The definitions from Todd Everts outline to Legislative Council in August:

IV. Remote Participation. (1) The Senate and House may assemble and convene the session with members participating remotely.

(2) Members participating remotely in the session may vote on any question or other matter before the Senate or House, including committees of the Senate or House.

(3) Members participating remotely in the session are considered present and in attendance at the session for all purposes, including for purposes of:

(a) determining a quorum pursuant to Article V, Section 10, of the Montana Constitution; and

(b) being present for the passage of a bill pursuant to Article V, Section 11, of the Montana Constitution.

(4) A member participating remotely in the session has the same privileges, rights, and responsibilities as if the member were physically present, including the right, privilege, and responsibility to cast votes on all questions or other matters brought to a vote.