

Amendments to Senate Joint Resolution No. 1
1st Reading Copy

Requested by Senator Pat Flowers

For the Senate Rules Committee

Prepared by Todd Everts
December 16, 2020 (12:33PM)

1. Page 1.

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CHAPTER 1

COVID-19 Response

01-10. Members physically present or remotely present by electronic means. (1) The Senate and the House may assemble, convene, and conduct the session with members being either physically present or participating remotely. A member is permitted to participate remotely if approved by the member's caucus leader.

(2) Members who are permitted to participate remotely in the session:

(a) may vote on any question or other matter before the Senate or the House, including committees of the Senate or the House;

(b) have the same privileges, rights, and duties 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;

(c) are considered to have immunity that prevents the member from being questioned in any other place for any speech or debate in the Legislature that happens by participating remotely, as guaranteed by Article V, section 8, of the Montana Constitution;

(d) are entitled to receive compensation for remotely participating in the same manner as a member physically participating during the session; and

(e) are considered present and in attendance at the session for all purposes, including for purposes of:

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

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

(3) The Legislative Services Division shall assist members who are participating remotely with any logistical or technical issues during the session.

(4) For the purpose of this rule, the caucus leader:

(a) for the majority party in the House is the Speaker of the House, the Speaker pro tempore of the House, or the House majority leader;

(b) for the minority party in the House is the House minority leader, or a Representative designated by the House minority leader;

(c) for the majority party in the Senate is the Senate President, the Senate President pro tempore, or the Senate majority leader; and

(d) for the minority party in the Senate is the Senate minority leader, or a Senator designated by the Senate minority leader.

(5) The Legislature shall provide the public, lobbyists, legislative staff, and all other interested parties the opportunity to fully participate in the legislative process through remote means, except as prohibited by technical or personnel limitations.

01-15. COVID-19 response protocols. (1) To protect the health of the Montanans we serve, the Legislature shall adopt for all its proceedings science-based health protocols to defend against the spread of COVID-19. Those protocols are:

(a) mandatory face coverings;

(b) maintaining 6 feet of physical distance;

(c) legislative proceedings protocols that legislative staff working with health professionals establish for:

(i) daily personal assessment of COVID-19 symptoms and rapid testing as needed;

(ii) appropriate procedures regarding quarantine of staff, lobbyists, legislators, and members of the public, as needed;

(iii) additional needed public health protocols that may emerge during the course of the pandemic.

(2) Legislative staff shall ensure hand sanitizing supplies are available throughout the Capitol at appropriate locations.

(3) For purposes of this rule, "face covering" means a fabric, paper, or disposable face covering with multiple layers that covers the nose and mouth and that does not have an exhalation valve. The term "face covering" includes face shields."

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