

By: Representative Arnold

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 29

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE JOINT RULES OF THE  
 2 MISSISSIPPI SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BY CREATING NEW  
 3 JOINT RULE 41 TO REQUIRE THE HOUSE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE  
 4 SENATE RULES COMMITTEE TO JOINTLY TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO  
 5 ALLOW ALL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND FLOOR SESSIONS OF THE HOUSE AND  
 6 SENATE BEGINNING WITH THE 2024 REGULAR SESSION TO BE CONDUCTED BY  
 7 ELECTRONIC OR OTHER TECHNOLOGICAL MEANS WHERE THE MEMBERS MAY  
 8 PARTICIPATE REMOTELY IN DEBATE AND VOTING WITHOUT THE MEMBERS  
 9 HAVING TO BE PHYSICALLY PRESENT; TO PROVIDE THAT WHENEVER THE  
 10 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE AND THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JOINTLY DETERMINE  
 11 THAT HOLDING IN-PERSON COMMITTEE MEETINGS OR FLOOR SESSIONS WOULD  
 12 POSE AN INCREASED HEALTH RISK TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE OR  
 13 TO THE PUBLIC, THEN THE COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND THE FLOOR SESSIONS  
 14 MAY BE CONDUCTED REMOTELY BY ELECTRONIC MEANS AS PROVIDED IN THIS  
 15 RULE, FOR SUCH PERIOD OF TIME AS JOINTLY DETERMINED BY THE SPEAKER  
 16 AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

17 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE  
 18 OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN, That the Joint  
 19 Rules Committee of the Mississippi Senate and House of  
 20 Representatives are amended by inserting the following new Joint  
 21 Rule No. 41 to read as follows:

22 "41. (1) The House Management Committee and the Senate  
 23 Rules Committee shall jointly take all actions that are necessary,  
 24 including entering into contracts with third parties for that  
 25 purpose, to allow all committee meetings and sessions on the floor



26 of the House and Senate beginning with the 2024 Regular Session to  
27 be conducted by electronic or other technological means where the  
28 members may participate remotely in debate and voting without the  
29 members having to be physically present in a committee meeting or  
30 in a floor session and where members of the public may view such  
31 meetings and sessions as they are being conducted.

32 (2) A member participating remotely in a committee meeting  
33 or in a floor session shall be considered to be present and in  
34 attendance at the committee meeting or at the floor session as if  
35 physically present, including for the purposes of determining if a  
36 quorum is present. Any action taken by a member who is  
37 participating remotely in a committee meeting or in a floor  
38 session shall have the same legal effect as if the member were  
39 physically present in the committee meeting or in the floor  
40 session when the action was taken, and any recorded vote cast by a  
41 member who was participating remotely shall be included in the  
42 journal of the respective house of the member.

43 (3) Whenever the Speaker of the House and the Lieutenant  
44 Governor jointly determine that holding in-person committee  
45 meetings or floor sessions of the House and Senate would pose an  
46 increased health risk to the members of the Legislature or to the  
47 public, then the committee meetings and the floor sessions may be  
48 conducted remotely by electronic means as provided in this rule,  
49 for such period of time as jointly determined by the Speaker and  
50 Lieutenant Governor.



51           (4) The provisions of this rule shall supersede any House or  
52 Senate rule that may be interpreted as prohibiting a member from  
53 participating remotely in a committee meeting or in a floor  
54 session or otherwise conflicting with a member's ability to  
55 participate remotely in a committee meeting or in a floor  
56 session."

