

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR STEVENS

Introduced: 1/29/21

Referred: Secretary's Desk

A RESOLUTION

1 **Suspending Rules 24(a) and 34(c), Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature, in**
2 **response to the COVID-19 pandemic; authorizing the presiding officers to allow**
3 **members to attend a session by videoconference or teleconference in certain**
4 **circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic; and relating to sessions where**
5 **members are authorized to attend a session by videoconference or teleconference.**

6 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

7 **WHEREAS** the World Health Organization has declared the disease caused by the
8 novel coronavirus, COVID-19, a pandemic; and

9 **WHEREAS**, under art. XV, sec. 20, Constitution of the State of Alaska, Juneau is the
10 capital and the seat of government of the State of Alaska, and the legislature must continue to
11 meet in the seat of government to the fullest extent possible; and

12 **WHEREAS**, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, it may be unsafe or impossible
13 for all members to travel to Juneau or to continue the essential business of the legislature in
14 person; and

15 **WHEREAS** the Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature may be suspended by

1 a two-thirds vote of the full membership of each house;

2 **BE IT RESOLVED** that, under Rule 54, Uniform Rules of the Alaska State
3 Legislature, the provisions of

4 (1) Rule 24(a), requiring signature by a majority of the members of the
5 committee for committee reports, are suspended during the Thirty-Second Alaska State
6 Legislature to the extent necessary to authorize a member of the committee to vote by
7 videoconference to report a bill from committee; the vote at a meeting held by
8 videoconference shall be taken by roll call, and the committee report must be in writing,
9 signed by the chair, and approved by a majority of the members of the committee;

10 (2) Rule 34(c), regarding voting procedure, are suspended during the Thirty-
11 Second Alaska State Legislature when attendance of members by videoconference is
12 authorized by the presiding officer to allow a member attending a session by videoconference
13 to vote in a roll call vote by videoconference; when attendance of members by
14 videoconference is authorized by the presiding officer, the electronic voting machine may be
15 used by a member voting from the member's desk and may be used to tally roll call votes cast
16 by members by videoconference; and be it

17 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that, by agreement of the presiding officers of both houses,
18 the presiding officer may authorize members to attend a session by videoconference when
19 necessary to establish a quorum if the legislature cannot physically meet because of the
20 COVID-19 pandemic; and be it

21 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that, when attendance of members by videoconference is
22 authorized by the presiding officer,

23 (1) the presiding officer must be physically present in the capitol when
24 conducting a session;

25 (2) a member participating by videoconference is considered present for
26 quorum purposes under Uniform Rule 14(a);

27 (3) a member participating by videoconference must be physically present at a
28 Legislative Information Office or the member's legislative office, unless otherwise approved
29 by the presiding officer; and

30 (4) the identity of each member participating by videoconference must be
31 verified and the actions of each participating member must be authenticated in a manner

1 satisfactory to the presiding officer; the videoconference must enable each participating
2 member to hear or read the comments of a member who is recognized by the presiding
3 officer; and be it

4 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that, if the presiding officer has authorized members to
5 attend a session by videoconference and there are technological reasons, including internet
6 service interruption or other unavoidable technological complications, that prevent members
7 from participating by videoconference, the presiding officer may allow members to attend a
8 session by teleconference; a member allowed to participate by teleconference under this
9 provision will be regarded as participating by videoconference for purposes of this resolution.