

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION D

February 02, 2021, Introduced by Senator MCMORROW and referred to the Committee on Government Operations.

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the state constitution of 1963, by amending sections 13, 14, 17, 20, and 21 of article IV, to provide for remote legislative meetings.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the state of Michigan, That the following amendment to the state constitution of 1963, to provide for remote legislative meetings, is proposed, agreed to, and submitted to the people of the state:

1 ARTICLE IV
2 Sec. 13. ~~The~~ **Except as otherwise provided in this article, the**

1 legislature shall meet at the seat of government. **The legislature**
2 **shall first meet** on the second Wednesday in January of each year at
3 twelve o'clock noon. Each regular session shall adjourn without
4 day, on a day determined by concurrent resolution, at twelve
5 o'clock noon. Any business, bill or joint resolution pending at the
6 final adjournment of a regular session held in an odd numbered year
7 shall carry over with the same status to the next regular session.

8 Sec. 14. A majority of the members elected to and serving in
9 each house shall constitute a quorum to do business. A smaller
10 number in each house may adjourn from day to day, and may compel
11 the attendance **or, if applicable, the telephonic or electronic**
12 **participation** of absent members in the manner and with penalties as
13 each house may prescribe.

14 Sec. 17. **(1)** Each house of the legislature may establish the
15 committees necessary for the efficient conduct of its business and
16 the legislature may create joint committees. On all actions on
17 bills and resolutions in each committee, names and votes of members
18 shall be recorded. Such vote shall be available for public
19 inspection. Notice of all committee hearings and a clear statement
20 of all subjects to be considered at each hearing shall be published
21 in the journal in advance of the hearing.

22 **(2) A committee meeting may be conducted electronically or**
23 **telephonically during an emergency. A member of a committee that**
24 **conducts a meeting electronically or telephonically under this**
25 **subsection is present for that meeting if the member participates**
26 **electronically or telephonically. A member of a committee who is**
27 **present for a meeting described under this subsection may vote**
28 **electronically or telephonically. If a committee meets**
29 **electronically or telephonically under this subsection, each house**

1 shall ensure the meeting is conducted in a manner that permits two-
2 way communication so that members of the public may hear and be
3 heard by committee members when the committee receives testimony or
4 provides an opportunity for public comment. As used in this
5 subsection, "emergency" means any of the following:

6 (a) A public health crisis.

7 (b) An extreme weather situation.

8 (c) Any other condition or occurrence that poses an imminent
9 or existing threat to the safety and security of the State Capitol
10 Building.

11 Sec. 20. The doors of each house shall be open unless the
12 public security otherwise requires **or a house is conducting session**
13 **electronically or telephonically under section 21 of this article.**

14 Sec. 21. (1) Neither house shall, without the consent of the
15 other, adjourn for more than two intervening calendar days, nor to
16 any place other than where the legislature may then be in session.

17 (2) A house may conduct session electronically or
18 telephonically during an emergency. A member of a house that
19 conducts session electronically or telephonically under this
20 subsection is present for that session if the member of the house
21 participates electronically or telephonically. A member of a house
22 who is present for a session under this subsection may vote
23 electronically or telephonically. If session is conducted
24 electronically or telephonically under this subsection, each house
25 shall ensure public access to the session by making the session
26 available online. As used in this subsection, "emergency" means any
27 of the following:

28 (a) A public health crisis.

29 (b) An extreme weather situation.

1 (c) Any other condition or occurrence that poses an imminent
2 or existing threat to the safety and security of the State Capitol
3 Building.

4 Resolved further, That the foregoing amendment shall be
5 submitted to the people of the state at the next general election
6 in the manner provided by law.