

## Continuity of Government Operations

House Rule to invoke during an emergency should there be a need to allow members to participate in the legislature while observing safety protocols that require social distancing with a designated alternate location, and/or remote participation through electronic means.

CONTINUITY OF HOUSE BUSINESS DURING AN EMERGENCY – Procedures.

This Rule, of the House of Representatives, or any part thereof, governs procedures where an emergency makes convening in person: dangerous, unwise, or impractical, due to a public health emergency, epidemic, natural or human caused disasters, enemy attacks, or other public catastrophe. For purposes of this rule, the following terms mean:

Designated alternate location: a location, within the seat of government, that has been determined by the Speaker of the House to provide a secure means of members participating in the legislative process in real time, whether floor sessions or committees. Such location shall: safeguard the integrity of the legislative process, maintain the deliberative character of House proceedings, provide for secure voting, and ensure a member's ability to speak on measures, and provides a means for public observation of legislative proceedings.

Remote participation: simultaneous, interactive participation in the legislative process by members not physically present at the location of the meeting. Participation shall occur through secure technological means that: safeguard the integrity of the legislative process, provide for secure voting, maintain the deliberative character of House proceedings and ensures a member's ability to speak on measures.

If the Speaker of the House determines that convening in person the House, or any part thereof, is dangerous, unwise, or impractical, due to a public health emergency, epidemic, natural or human caused disaster, enemy attack, or other public catastrophe, the following rules, passed by majority vote, may be invoked: All House rules in conflict with this Rule shall be suspended for the duration of the term stated in an adopted motion or House Resolution. This Rule may be extended by either majority vote or adoption of another House Resolution.

1. A quorum of members for the purpose of convening the House or any part thereof, from day to day shall be inclusive of those members who are present in the chamber, recorded present at a designated alternate location, and recorded present through remote participation while logged into their state provided electronic device on their state provided account whose presence has been authenticated by the Chief Clerk. **Authentication of attendance as part of the attest at the end of each daily journal**
2. Remote participation shall include, members being permitted to vote remotely, debate, state a motion, second a motion, and address the House, using the secure method provided to them by legislative services. (HR 42)
3. House floor sessions and committee meetings may be held at a designated alternate location, within the seat of government, to provide for the health, safety and welfare of members, staff and the public (HR 37)
4. Convening of the House or any part thereof, day to day may be done remotely to provide for the health, safety and welfare of members, staff and the public.

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5. Except as provided in House rule 80(3), each member shall vote on any question put while:

- present in their seat in the chamber, or
- in their seat at a designated alternate location, or
- through remote participation while logged onto their state provided electronic device using their state provided voting account
- Or through such other means as adopted by the Idaho House Of Representatives.

All remote participation votes shall be authenticated by the Chief Clerk prior to those votes being included in a final vote tally. Add authentication to the attest of each daily journal where votes are taken (HR 80-1-2) (HR 81)

6. All votes where there is remote participation shall be roll call votes. (HR's 79 & 80)

7. The Speaker may close to the public, the House floor, chamber, lobby, galleries, office spaces, galleries, committee rooms adjoining and connecting hallways and passages to protect the health, safety and welfare of all persons. Upon closure of the public gallery, there shall be alternate methods of viewing floor proceedings for representatives of the news media and the public. (HR 63-2 70, 71 and 72)

8. Broadcasting and recording of House floor proceedings by the authorized designee shall continue, through means available to the legislature at the time of the invocation of this rule and in compliance with Article 3, Sec 12 of the Idaho Constitution. If the House gallery is closed and the ability to broadcast fails, the House shall halt its proceedings, by recessing or adjourning, until such time as the broadcast has been restored. (HR 72)

9. Committee meetings may include remote participation and participation from a designated alternate location if each member of the committee is able to:

- communicate in real time with each other through audio, and/or video means, and,
- meeting materials can be presented to all committee members, and
- there is a means to provide the public with an opportunity to provide testimony to the committee; and
- the public is able to observe all proceedings of the committee, except during executive session as authorized by House Rules.

In the event there is a technical failure that does not allow members to communicate in real time, or prevents the broadcast from being provided to the public, the meeting shall halt – either through recess or adjournment until, all members present are able to resume communication, or the broadcast has been restored. (HR 26-1)

10. A member of a committee may vote on any measure before the committee while:

- present in the committee room, or
- from a designated alternate location or
- through remote participation while logged onto their state provided electronic device using their state provided voting account; or
- through such other methods as approved by the House or Committee.

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All roll call votes where there is remote participation shall be authenticated by the committee Chairman before being included in the final minutes. **\*\*Add authentication to the end of each daily minutes where votes are taken**

11. The Speaker may limit the number of members, staff, press and general public on the House floor, chamber, galleries office spaces, committee rooms adjoining and connecting hallways and passages, to protect the health, safety and welfare of all persons. (HR 63-2, 70 & 71)
12. The Speaker may require members, staff, representatives of the news media, and the general public to observe health and safety protocols while in House spaces including: the House floor, lobby, chamber, galleries, office spaces, committee rooms, adjoining and connecting hallways and passages. (HR 63-2)
13. During a Call of the House, a member who is in their seat at the designated alternate location or attending through remote participation shall be considered present and within the Chamber. (HR 18)
14. Any member participating in House floor proceedings either through remote participation, or at a designated alternate location may, in the fifth or seventh order, call for bills, memorials or resolutions according to Rule 17, a request to grant the committee further time may also be made by remote participants and members at a designated alternate location, all other provisions of Rule 17 will remain in place as stated. (HR 17)