

SENATE RESOLUTION

8602

By Senators Pedersen and Short

1       WHEREAS, The Facilities and Operations Committee has the  
2 authority to determine whether physically convening all members and  
3 staff in a single location could present a danger to health or safety  
4 of the participants and requires continued operational changes to  
5 adhere to public health guidance during the 2023 legislative session;  
6 and

7       WHEREAS, Permanent Senate Rule 70 establishes a process by which  
8 the Senate will adopt a resolution establishing the rules and  
9 procedures to govern floor and committee action for such a  
10 legislative session;

11       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Senate of the state of  
12 Washington, That the following be adopted as the Emergency  
13 Parliamentary Rules of the Sixty-Eighth Legislature:

14                   **"EMERGENCY PARLIAMENTARY RULES**  
15                               **OF THE SENATE**  
16                   **SIXTY- ( (SEVENTH) ) EIGHTH LEGISLATURE**  
17                               **( (2022) ) 2023**

18       **SECTION I: GENERAL**

19       **Rule A**                               Public Health Measures.  
20       **~~(Rule B)~~**                           **~~Filing of Bills.~~**  
21       **~~Rule C~~**                           **~~Electronic Signatures.))~~**

1	<b>Rule ((D)) B</b>	Interpretation of Permanent Senate Rules.
2	<b>SECTION II: PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES</b>	
3	<b>Rule ((E)) C</b>	Remote Voting.
4	<del>((Rule F</del>	<del>Attendance and Quorum.</del>
5	<b>Rule G</b>	<del>Rules of Debate.))</del>
6	<b>Rule ((H)) D</b>	Call of the Senate.
7	<b>Rule ((I)) E</b>	<del>((Referral of Bills to Committee.))</del> <u>Relieving Rules</u>
8		<u>Committee of Bills.</u>
9	<b>Rule ((J)) F</b>	Floor Amendments.
10	<b>SECTION III: COMMITTEES</b>	
11	<b>Rule ((K)) G</b>	Committee Procedures.

**SECTION I**

**GENERAL**

**Public Health Measures**

15       **A.** (1) Senate members and employees must comply with the ((2022))  
16 2023 Senate Session Guidelines adopted by the Facilities and  
17 Operations Committee, including any subsequent amendments and as  
18 implemented by Senate Administration. These guidelines govern mask-  
19 wearing, social distancing, and COVID-19 ~~((quarantine))~~ isolation  
20 procedures ~~((in accordance with the most recent public health~~  
21 ~~guidelines))~~.

22       (2) (a) ~~((Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, regular))~~  
23 Regular floor action will occur in a hybrid remote format with only  
24 the number of members present as determined by the Facilities and  
25 Operations Committee and subject to the ((2022)) 2023 Senate Session  
26 Guidelines.

27       (b) ~~((If the Facilities and Operations Committee determines that~~  
28 ~~public health conditions no longer require floor action to be~~  
29 ~~conducted in a hybrid remote format, regular floor action will occur~~  
30 ~~with all members present on the floor, subject to the 2022 Senate~~  
31 ~~Session Guidelines. Only those members who are required to quarantine~~  
32 ~~or isolate by the Senate Human Resource Officer due to COVID-19~~  
33 ~~exposure or infection will be permitted to vote remotely.~~

34       ~~(e))~~ Committee hearings and executive action will be held  
35 remotely.

1 (3) Public access to the Senate galleries during floor action  
2 shall be determined by the Facilities and Operations Committee. All  
3 committee and floor proceedings will be broadcast to the public via  
4 streaming or televised platforms to ensure public access. (See  
5 Article II, Section 11 of the state Constitution.)

6 ~~((Filing of Bills~~

7 ~~B. (1) Any member desiring to introduce a bill shall email the~~  
8 ~~bill to the office of the code reviser by noon of the day before the~~  
9 ~~convening of the session at which the bill is to be introduced. Only~~  
10 ~~bills that have been emailed by a member or the member's legislative~~  
11 ~~assistant may be considered for introduction.~~

12 ~~(2) Sponsor sheets will be electronically available for~~  
13 ~~introducing the bill. The member emailing the bill and corresponding~~  
14 ~~sponsor sheet shall be considered the sponsor of the bill. The~~  
15 ~~sponsoring member may designate one cosponsor of the bill by~~  
16 ~~providing the cosponsor's name in the email and by including the~~  
17 ~~cosponsor's name in the cc line of the email.~~

18 ~~(3) Additional members may add themselves as cosponsors to the~~  
19 ~~bill by emailing the Senate workroom by 5:00 p.m. of the day of its~~  
20 ~~introduction.~~

21 ~~(4) Agency and governor request legislation shall follow this~~  
22 ~~process and the sponsoring member or member's legislative assistant~~  
23 ~~must email such legislation to the office of the code reviser.~~

24 ~~(5) The introduction of title-only bills is prohibited. For the~~  
25 ~~purposes of this subsection, a title-only bill is a bill containing a~~  
26 ~~title or short summary of the intended subject matter, without laying~~  
27 ~~forth the full changes intended to any act or sections of law.~~

28 ~~**Electronic Signatures**~~

29 ~~C. Electronic or scanned signatures are authorized in place of~~  
30 ~~any physical signatures that are otherwise required in order for a~~  
31 ~~member to conduct legislative business.))~~

32 ~~**Interpretation of Permanent Senate Rules**~~

33 ~~((D)) B.~~ To the extent that a matter is not addressed in this  
34 Resolution, the Permanent Rules of the Senate adopted January ~~((10,~~  
35 ~~2022))~~ 9, 2023, will govern. The President will interpret all rules  
36 and procedures to facilitate legislative business in a fair and  
37 efficient manner in light of the ongoing emergency and remote  
38 session.

1 SECTION II  
2 PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

3 Remote Voting

4 ~~((E)) C.~~ (1) Members will record their vote using the remote  
5 voting system. The clerk will close electronic voting and announce  
6 each member's vote individually. The President will call on those  
7 members who are present but have not yet voted. The President will  
8 then provide members a final opportunity to be recognized and change  
9 their votes. The clerk will then announce the vote.

10 ~~(2) ((Should the Facilities and Operations Committee determine~~  
11 ~~that public health conditions no longer require floor action to be~~  
12 ~~conducted in a hybrid remote format in accordance with Emergency Rule~~  
13 ~~A, members will vote orally. During any roll call vote where more~~  
14 ~~than five members are participating remotely, members participating~~  
15 ~~remotely will record their vote using the remote voting system. In~~  
16 ~~such cases, the clerk will close electronic voting and announce the~~  
17 ~~vote of remote members individually. The President will call on those~~  
18 ~~members who are present but have not yet voted. The President will~~  
19 ~~then provide members a final opportunity to be recognized and change~~  
20 ~~their votes. The clerk will then announce the vote.~~

21 ~~(3) If, during a roll call vote, the vote of each member~~  
22 ~~participating remotely is unable to be taken, the member will be~~  
23 ~~automatically excused. The member may request in writing that their~~  
24 ~~vote be reflected in the Senate journal, though it will not count~~  
25 ~~towards the final roll call.~~

26 ~~(4))~~ In accordance with Senate Rule 22, once begun, a roll call  
27 vote will not be interrupted because a member participating remotely  
28 has connectivity issues. However, if a majority of members elected is  
29 no longer present due to connectivity issues, a majority of those  
30 still present may defer consideration of a bill, adjourn, or recess  
31 the Senate until a quorum can be reestablished.

32 ~~((Attendance and Quorum~~

33 ~~F. A member of the Senate voting remotely is considered in~~  
34 ~~attendance within the bar of the Senate if the member is~~  
35 ~~participating in the session through a remote access program~~  
36 ~~established by the Secretary of the Senate as provided in Senate Rule~~  
37 ~~70.~~

38 ~~Rules of Debate~~

1 ~~G. In accordance with Senate Rule 29, when present on the floor~~  
2 ~~of the Senate, any senator about to speak in debate or submit any~~  
3 ~~matter to the Senate shall rise and respectfully request recognition~~  
4 ~~by the President by both voice and electronic means.))~~

#### 5 **Call of the Senate**

6 ~~(H)~~ **D.** A call of the Senate may be moved by the majority or  
7 minority floor leader and sustained by three Senators. If carried by  
8 a majority of those present, the Secretary shall call the roll, after  
9 which the names of the absentees shall again be called. The business  
10 of the Senate will be suspended until the absent senators are  
11 considered within the bar of the Senate for such action as the Senate  
12 may deem proper. A call of the Senate may not interrupt a roll call  
13 vote, and no penalties shall be sustained for members experiencing  
14 connectivity issues.

#### 15 ~~(Referral of Bills to Committee)~~ **Relieving Rules Committee of Bills**

16 ~~(I)~~ **E.** ~~((1) Draft bill referrals will be electronically~~  
17 ~~published by 8:00 p.m. the evening before any session to consider~~  
18 ~~them. All objections or requests for rereferral must be communicated~~  
19 ~~in writing by a member to the majority floor leader by 8:00 a.m. the~~  
20 ~~day of convening.~~

21 ~~(2))~~ The Senate may relieve the Rules Committee of a bill with  
22 the consent of a majority of the Senate, provided that two hours'  
23 notice has been given to the President and all members of the Senate  
24 by the majority leader. The majority leader will consult with the  
25 President prior to giving such notice.

#### 26 **Floor Amendments**

27 ~~(J)~~ **F.** Any floor amendments must be submitted electronically by  
28 a member to the Secretary of the Senate for consideration. Each floor  
29 amendment shall be submitted in a separate email with the number of  
30 the bill to be amended included in the subject line of the email.  
31 Floor amendments received after second reading on the bill has begun  
32 shall not be in order.

### 33 **SECTION III**

### 34 **COMMITTEES**

#### 35 **Committee Procedures**

1        ~~(K)~~ G. (1) All committees will meet remotely, except that,  
2 after consultation with the President, the majority leader may choose  
3 to hold a Rules Committee meeting in person. A member shall be  
4 considered in attendance at a committee hearing if the member is  
5 participating through a remote access program established by the  
6 Secretary of the Senate as provided in Senate Rule 70.

7        ~~(2) ((All committees will rely upon and use the Electronic Bill  
8 Book. Committee staff should add all materials relating to hearings,  
9 work sessions, or executive sessions to the Electronic Bill Book as  
10 early as possible or when the material has been made public. Paper  
11 copies will not be provided to members.~~

12        ~~(3) All committees will use the Committee Sign-In system used in  
13 the past by the public, which has been modified to allow universal  
14 remote testimony sign-in for all committee hearings. All committee  
15 members will be able to view the list of individuals who have signed  
16 in to testify on each bill. All testimony will be taken remotely or  
17 in writing. Members of the public wishing to testify may sign up  
18 remotely up to one hour before the committee is scheduled to meet.~~

19        ~~(4) Chairs must publish the list of bills that may be considered  
20 for executive session by 4:00 p.m. two days preceding executive  
21 session. A chair with the consent of the ranking member has  
22 discretion to waive this deadline in extraordinary circumstances.~~

23        ~~(5) Members must have amendment requests to nonpartisan committee  
24 staff by noon the day before scheduled executive action. Members  
25 should be considerate of staff and turn in amendment requests earlier  
26 if they are long or complex, keeping in mind the final deadline for  
27 consideration of amendments.~~

28        ~~(6) All amendments, including substitutes, must be sponsored by a  
29 committee member. All amendments and effect statements must be either  
30 drafted or reviewed, or both, by nonpartisan committee staff. To be  
31 eligible for consideration at an executive session in a committee  
32 meeting scheduled to begin prior to 12:00 p.m., amendments must be  
33 released from confidentiality and posted to the Electronic Bill Book  
34 for committee members and the public by 4:00 p.m. the day before the  
35 executive session or the amendments will be considered out of order.  
36 To be eligible for consideration at an executive session in a  
37 committee meeting scheduled to begin on or after 12:00 p.m.,  
38 amendments must be released from confidentiality and posted to the  
39 Electronic Bill Book for committee members and the public by 7:00  
40 p.m. the day before the executive session or the amendments will be~~

1 ~~considered out of order. A chair with the consent of the ranking~~  
2 ~~member has discretion to waive this deadline in extraordinary~~  
3 ~~circumstances.~~

4 ~~(7))~~ Committee voting will be done through recorded roll call  
5 votes with the results transmitted to the Secretary of the Senate via  
6 electronic means. Members must be present and visible to be eligible  
7 to vote during the executive session. Voting will not be allowed  
8 "subject to signatures."

9 ~~((8))~~ (3) Electronic reports of standing committees must be  
10 received one hour prior to convening of the session in order to be  
11 read at said session. This requirement may be suspended by a majority  
12 of the Senate. This rule does not apply to reports of biennial or  
13 supplemental omnibus operating appropriations act, omnibus capital  
14 appropriations act, or omnibus transportation appropriations act  
15 bills.

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