

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION O

April 24, 2020, Introduced by Senators MCMORROW, POLEHANKI, BAYER, WOJNO, BULLOCK and SANTANA 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:

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ARTICLE IV

1 Sec. 13. ~~The~~ **Except as otherwise provided in this article, the**
2 legislature shall meet at the seat of government. **The legislature**
3 **shall first meet** on the second Wednesday in January of each year at
4 twelve o'clock noon. Each regular session shall adjourn without
5 day, on a day determined by concurrent resolution, at twelve
6 o'clock noon. Any business, bill or joint resolution pending at the
7 final adjournment of a regular session held in an odd numbered year
8 shall carry over with the same status to the next regular session.

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

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

23 **(2) If an emergency is declared in this state due to a public**
24 **health crisis or an extreme weather situation, a committee meeting**
25 **may be conducted electronically or telephonically during the**
26 **declared emergency. A member of a committee that conducts a meeting**
27 **electronically or telephonically under this subsection is present**
28 **for that meeting if the member participates electronically or**
29 **telephonically. A member of a committee who is present for a**

1 meeting described under this subsection may vote electronically or
2 telephonically. If a committee meets electronically or
3 telephonically under this subsection, each house shall ensure the
4 meeting is conducted in a manner that permits two-way communication
5 so that members of the public may hear and be heard by committee
6 members when the committee receives testimony or provides an
7 opportunity for public comment.

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

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

14 (2) If an emergency is declared in this state due to a public
15 health crisis or an extreme weather situation, a house may conduct
16 session electronically or telephonically during the declared
17 emergency. A member of a house that conducts session electronically
18 or telephonically under this subsection is present for that session
19 if the member of the house participates electronically or
20 telephonically. A member of a house who is present for a session
21 under this subsection may vote electronically or telephonically. If
22 session is conducted electronically or telephonically under this
23 subsection, each house shall ensure public access to the session by
24 making the session available online.

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