

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021

HR 1005

4
5 By: Representative Shepherd

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7 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

8 TO ADOPT EMERGENCY RULES FOR THE HOUSE OF
9 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY
10 FOR THE CONDUCT OF BUSINESS IN THE HOUSE CHAMBER
11 DURING THE 2021 REGULAR SESSION.

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14 **Subtitle**

15 TO ADOPT EMERGENCY RULES FOR THE HOUSE OF
16 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-THIRD
17 GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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19 WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the Governor declared and has since
20 extended a state of emergency due to the coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19)
21 pandemic; and

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23 WHEREAS, in order to provide for the continuity of government and the
24 carrying out of the General Assembly's constitutional responsibilities
25 related to the regular legislative session, it is necessary to adopt certain
26 protocols and procedures to ensure a safe and healthy environment for
27 members, staff, and public participation in the legislative process,

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29 NOW THEREFORE,

30 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL
31 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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33 Section 1. Intent and Duration.

34 (a) Upon affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the House of
35 Representatives, these emergency procedures shall become effective and
36 applicable to the proceedings of the House of Representatives and its



1 committees for the duration of the 2021 Regular Session of the Ninety-Third
2 General Assembly.

3 (b) If the procedures set forth herein conflict with the Rules of the
4 House of Representatives, these procedures shall supersede the Rules of the
5 House of Representatives.

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7 Section 2. Health and Safety of the House.

8 (a) To comply with Department of Health recommendations and to protect
9 the health and safety of representatives, staff, and others who access House
10 properties, a mask or other cloth face covering over the mouth and nose shall
11 be worn with exceptions for participants in recognized debate or under
12 special circumstances as authorized by the Speaker.

13 (b) To comply with Department of Health recommendations and to protect
14 the health and safety of representatives, staff, and others who access House
15 properties, appropriate physical distancing shall be maintained among
16 individuals unless transparent barriers are in place.

17 (c) All representatives, staff, and others prior to entering House
18 properties shall submit to and pass a temperature check and health screening
19 if such screenings are being conducted.

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21 Section 3. Voting.

22 (a) The Electronic Voting System shall have the same force and effect
23 as a Roll Call. (House Rule 102).

24 (b) Any representative who will be absent from the House may pair his
25 or her vote with a representative who shall be present. (House Rule 99)

26 (c) In addition to votes cast using the Electronic Voting System and
27 pair votes, representatives may cast votes using:

28 (1)(A) The Electronic Voting System's Virtual Voting Console
29 operational on electronic devices assigned to individual representatives and
30 operational outside the House Chamber but within the communications network
31 maintained for the General Assembly.

32 (B) In the event of a sounding of the ballot (House Rule
33 100), votes cast remotely through the virtual voting console shall be
34 confirmed by the physical presence of the representative at the time the
35 ballot is sounded; or

36 (2)(A) Limited-Directed Proxy:

1 (B) A representative may submit in writing to the Speaker
2 of the House a request to vote by proxy. For purposes of these procedures,
3 “in writing” includes submission of the request by electronic means.

4 (C) The Speaker of the House shall direct an approved
5 request to vote by proxy to the requesting representative’s respective
6 Majority or Minority caucus leader, or his or her designee, who will be
7 physically present to vote as proxy for the absent representative. A caucus
8 leader or his or her designee may vote by proxy for more than one (1) absent
9 representative.

10 (D) All votes by proxy shall be indicated in writing by
11 the absent representative no later than one (1) hour before the House session
12 begins. The Speaker of the House may waive the deadline in order to
13 accommodate extraordinary circumstances.

14 (E) A representative authorized to vote by proxy shall be
15 counted as present for purposes of establishing a quorum of the House but
16 shall not be eligible for daily expense reimbursements.

17 (F) The physical presence of a representative who
18 requested authorization to vote by proxy shall invalidate the authority to
19 vote by proxy.

20 (G) Copies of all proxy votes cast shall be provided to
21 the Chief Clerk of the House, who shall record proxy assignments and voting
22 preferences in the House Journal.

23 (H) A quorum established through the use of proxies and
24 sessions held involving votes cast by proxy shall satisfy the requirement
25 that the General Assembly meet at the seat of government every year, as set
26 forth in Arkansas Constitution, Article 5, § 5.

27 (I) In the event of a sounding of the ballot (House Rule
28 100), votes cast by proxy shall not be stricken.

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