

1 HB207
2 209069-1
3 By Representative Warren (Constitutional Amendment)
4 RFD: State Government
5 First Read: 02-FEB-21
6 PFD: 01/29/2021

SYNOPSIS: This bill would propose an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, to provide for remote participation in legislative meetings and sessions under certain conditions during declared states of emergency.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To propose an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, to provide for remote participation in legislative meetings and sessions under certain conditions during declared states of emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended, is proposed and shall become valid as a part thereof when approved by a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon and in

1 accordance with Sections 284, 285, and 287 of the Constitution
2 of Alabama of 1901, as amended:

3 PROPOSED AMENDMENT

4 (a) For purposes of this subdivision, "remote
5 participation" means simultaneous, interactive participation,
6 including deliberating and voting, in a legislative committee
7 meeting or session of either house of the Legislature by
8 electronic or other technological means by some or all members
9 of the committee or some or all members of each house who are
10 not physically present at the meeting or session.

11 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of the
12 constitution, during a state of emergency declared by the
13 Legislature or the Governor as provided under existing law,
14 members of the Legislature may participate in committee
15 meetings and sessions of each house by remote participation
16 pursuant to rules adopted by each house of the Legislature.

17 (c) The rules adopted pursuant to subsection (b)
18 shall ensure that the electronic or other technological means
19 employed for remote participation safeguard the integrity of
20 the legislative process and maintain the deliberative
21 character of the meeting by providing for simultaneous verbal
22 communication and participation among all members.

23 Section 2. An election upon the proposed amendment
24 shall be held in accordance with Sections 284 and 285 of the
25 Constitution of Alabama of 1901, now appearing as Sections 284
26 and 285 of the Official Recompilation of the Constitution of

1 Alabama of 1901, as amended, and the election laws of this
2 state.

3 Section 3. The appropriate election official shall
4 assign a ballot number for the proposed constitutional
5 amendment on the election ballot and shall set forth the
6 following description of the substance or subject matter of
7 the proposed constitutional amendment:

8 "Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of
9 Alabama of 1901, relating to the Legislature, to provide for
10 remote participation in legislative meetings and sessions
11 under certain conditions during declared states of emergency.

12 "Proposed by Act _____."

13 This description shall be followed by the following
14 language:

15 "Yes () No ()."