

The House Committee on Rules offers the following substitute to SR 19:

## A RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to provide for alternative meeting locations and means in certain emergency situations for the General Assembly; to provide for related matters; to provide for the submission of this amendment for ratification or rejection; and for other purposes.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

### SECTION 1.

Article III, Section IV of the Constitution is amended by revising Paragraph I as follows:

"Paragraph I. ***Meeting, time limit, and adjournment.*** (a) The Senate and House of Representatives shall organize each odd-numbered year and shall be a different General Assembly for each two-year period. The General Assembly shall meet in regular session on the second Monday in January of each year, or otherwise as provided by law, and may continue in session for a period of no longer than 40 days in the aggregate each year. By concurrent resolution, the General Assembly may adjourn any regular session to such later date as it may fix for reconvening. Separate periods of adjournment may be fixed by one or more such concurrent resolutions.

(b) Neither house shall adjourn during a regular session for more than three days without the consent of the other. ~~or Neither house shall~~ meet in any place other than the state capitol without the consent of the other. Following the fifth day of a special session, either house may adjourn not more than twice for a period not to exceed seven days for each such adjournment. In the event either house, after the thirtieth day of any session, adopts a resolution to adjourn for a specified period of time and such resolution and any amendments thereto are not adopted by both houses by the end of the legislative day on which adjournment was called for in such resolution, the Governor may adjourn both houses for a period of time not to exceed ten days.

(c) If an impeachment trial is pending at the end of any session, the House shall adjourn and the Senate shall remain in session until such trial is completed.

(d) In the event of an emergency affecting the state due to an enemy attack or a natural or manmade disaster or pandemic that makes it difficult or impossible for the General Assembly to physically meet in the state capitol, the General Assembly may meet at another location or may meet through electronic means as provided by rules of the General Assembly or as provided by law. If the General Assembly chooses to meet through electronic means, such meetings shall be conducted such that:

(1) The members of each house shall be able to observe and hear the meeting and any discussion, debate, or other statements by the members regarding the consideration and passage of any legislation as well as the votes of the respective members;

(2) The general public shall be able to observe and hear the meeting and any discussion, debate, or other statements by the members regarding the consideration and passage of any legislation as well as the votes of the respective members;

(3) The members of each house shall be able to see the contents of the legislation that is being considered by the body including any amendments or other documents before the body; and

(4) The members shall be able to submit proposed legislation, amendments, and other documents through electronic means."

## SECTION 2.

Article III, Section VI of the Constitution is amended by revising Paragraph II(a)(4) as follows:

"(4) The continuity of state and local governments in periods of an emergency resulting from disasters caused by enemy attack or natural or manmade disasters or pandemics including, but not limited to, the suspension of ~~all~~ such constitutional legislative rules as the General Assembly deems necessary due to any such disaster or pandemic during such emergency."

## SECTION 3.

The above proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be published and submitted as provided in Article X, Section I, Paragraph II of the Constitution. The ballot submitting the above proposed amendment shall have written or printed thereon the following:

"( ) YES Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to provide that the  
( ) NO General Assembly may meet in places other than the state capitol or by  
electronic means in the event of an emergency situation?"

All persons desiring to vote in favor of ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "Yes."

All persons desiring to vote against ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "No." If

61 such amendment shall be ratified as provided in said Paragraph of the Constitution, it shall  
62 become a part of the Constitution of this state.