

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 278

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to permit absent Members to participate in committee hearings using video conferencing and related technologies and to establish a remote voting system under which absent Members may cast votes in the House on motions to suspend the rules.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 25, 2017

Mr. SWALWELL of California (for himself, Mr. PEARCE, and Mr. CRAWFORD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

RESOLUTION

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to permit absent Members to participate in committee hearings using video conferencing and related technologies and to establish a remote voting system under which absent Members may cast votes in the House on motions to suspend the rules.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

3 This resolution may be cited as the “Members Oper-
4 ating to Be Innovative and Link Everyone Resolution” or
5 the “MOBILE Resolution”.

1 **SEC. 2. PARTICIPATION OF ABSENT MEMBERS IN COM-**
2 **MITTEE HEARINGS THROUGH VIDEO CON-**
3 **FERENCING AND RELATED TECHNOLOGIES.**

4 (a) **ENABLING PARTICIPATION OF ABSENT MEM-**
5 **BERS.**—Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representa-
6 tives is amended by adding at the end the following new
7 clause:

8 **“Participation of absent members**

9 “7. Each committee shall permit any member of the
10 committee who is absent from the site of a hearing con-
11 vened by the committee, as well as any other individual
12 who is invited to participate in the hearing and who is
13 absent from the site of the hearing, to use video confer-
14 encing and related technologies in order to participate in
15 the hearing to the same extent as members of the com-
16 mittee and other individuals (as the case may be) who are
17 present at the site of the meeting.”.

18 (b) **INCLUSION OF MEMBERS PARTICIPATING RE-**
19 **MOTELY IN DETERMINATION OF QUORUM.**—Subpara-
20 graph (2) of clause 2(h) of rule XI of the Rules of the
21 House of Representatives is amended by adding at the end
22 the following sentence: “A committee shall adopt a rule
23 under which a member who participates in a hearing re-
24 motely pursuant to clause 7 shall be included in deter-
25 mining the number of members constituting a quorum at
26 the hearing for purposes of this subparagraph.”.

1 **SEC. 3. PERMITTING ABSENT MEMBERS TO VOTE RE-**
2 **MOTELY ON SUSPENSION MOTIONS.**

3 Clause 1 of rule XV of the Rules of the House of
4 Representatives is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing new paragraph:

6 “(d) The Clerk, Chief Administrative Officer, and
7 Sergeant at Arms shall work together to develop and im-
8 plement a secure remote voting system under which any
9 member who is absent from the floor shall be permitted
10 to cast a vote remotely on a motion to suspend the rules
11 under this clause if the vote is taken by electronic device.
12 A member who casts such a vote using the remote voting
13 system under this subparagraph shall be treated as
14 present for purposes of determining the existence of a
15 quorum for considering the motion.”.

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