



HOUSE RESOLUTION 20B-1001

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Garnett and Geitner, .

CONCERNING A CHANGE TO THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO AUTHORIZE THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO PROMULGATE REGULATIONS TO ALLOW REMOTE TESTIMONY BY THE PUBLIC DURING THE PROCEEDINGS OF HOUSE COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE WHILE THERE IS A DECLARED PUBLIC HEALTH DISASTER EMERGENCY.

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-second General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

That in the Rules of the House of Representatives, **add** Rule No. 54 as follows:

54. Regulations for Remote Testimony in Committees

(a) PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-2-404 (2), C.R.S., THIS RULE AUTHORIZES THE SPEAKER TO PROMULGATE REGULATIONS TO ENABLE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES AS WELL AS OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO TESTIFY REMOTELY IN LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS OF HOUSE COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE HELD DURING THE FIRST EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE SEVENTY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY. NOTHING IN THIS RULE 54 OR ANY REGULATIONS PROMULGATED PURSUANT TO THIS RULE 54 PROHIBITS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OR EMPLOYEES OR OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FROM TESTIFYING IN PERSON IN LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS OF HOUSE COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE. THE SPEAKER SHALL ENSURE THAT REGULATIONS PROMULGATED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (a) ARE DISTRIBUTED TO EACH MEMBER OF THE HOUSE AND TO THE CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE AND POSTED ON THE WEBSITE OF THE HOUSE.

- (b) THE SPEAKER, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE MAJORITY LEADER AND THE MINORITY LEADER, MAY INVOKE THE REGULATIONS FOR REMOTE TESTIMONY ONLY IF THE CONDITIONS CONCERNING A DECLARED PUBLIC HEALTH DISASTER EMERGENCY, AS DESCRIBED IN JOINT RULE 44 (a) OF THE JOINT RULES OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ARE MET AND THE SPEAKER FINDS THAT HOLDING IN-PERSON LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS OF HOUSE COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE POSES AN INCREASED HEALTH RISK TO THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OR TO THE PUBLIC. WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AFTER INVOKING THE REGULATIONS FOR REMOTE TESTIMONY, THE SPEAKER SHALL ENSURE THAT WRITTEN NOTICE OF THE INVOCATION IS PROVIDED TO EACH MEMBER OF THE HOUSE AND TO THE CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE AND POSTED ON THE WEBSITE OF THE HOUSE. THE REGULATIONS FOR REMOTE TESTIMONY MAY REMAIN IN EFFECT ONLY SO LONG AS THE DECLARED STATE OF PUBLIC HEALTH DISASTER EMERGENCY CONTINUES.
- (c) THE REGULATIONS THAT THE SPEAKER MAY PROMULGATE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (a) OF THIS RULE 54 MUST ADDRESS THE TYPE OF TECHNOLOGY OR SOFTWARE THAT A PERSON MUST USE TO TESTIFY REMOTELY IN A LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDING OF A COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE OF THE HOUSE, AND MAY ADDRESS SUCH ADDITIONAL MATTERS AS THE SPEAKER DETERMINES ARE NECESSARY. HOWEVER, NOTHING IN THIS RULE 54 OR IN ANY REGULATIONS PROMULGATED PURSUANT TO THIS RULE 54 SHALL BE CONSTRUED AS LIMITING OR OTHERWISE MODIFYING THE AUTHORITY OF THE CHAIR OF A HOUSE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE TO LIMIT TESTIMONY AS SET FORTH IN HOUSE RULE 25 (j)(1)(E.2).

Robin Jones
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

KC Becker
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES