The following has special meaning:
green underline denotes added text
~~red-struck-out text denotes deleted text~~

Powered by State Net

2019 MA S 2688	**Author:** Rules **Version:** Adopted **Version Date:** 05/07/2020

SENATE No. 2688

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court

(2019-2020)

AN ACT RELATIVE TO REMOTE VOTING PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED WHEN THE SENATE CONSIDERS THE HOUSE BILL TO FACILITATE THE DELAY OF THE INCOME TAX FILING DEADLINE.

WHEREAS, The outbreak of the 2019 novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, and the governor's March 10, 2020 declaration of a state of emergency require the Senate to convene to take legislative action to ensure the welfare of the commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, In light of the guidance of medical professionals, the governor and other governmental officials and in order to provide for the public safety, including the safety of members and staff, additional methods of voting are necessary; and

WHEREAS, The Senate, pursuant to Article VII of Section II of Chapter I of Part the Second of the Constitution of the Commonwealth, has the power to determine its own rules of proceedings; now, therefore be it

ORDERED, That the Senate declares that a state of emergency exists within the Senate as a result of the outbreak of COVID-19; and be it further

ORDERED, That the following provisions shall apply to the debate on enactment on H.4677:

Section 1. (a) Notwithstanding Senate Rule 55, Senate Rule 57 or any other rule to the contrary, a member may authorize the presiding officer to announce the member's vote or record the member's presence in the Senate.

(b) A member may authorize the presiding officer by submitting a letter to the Clerk that specifies the member's exact instruction to the presiding officer on how to answer the question of enactment of H.4677 and states that the presiding officer is authorized to announce the member's vote or record the member's presence; provided, however, that a member may alter or revoke this authorization by submitting a letter to the Clerk; provided further, that if a member who has so authorized the presiding officer casts the member's own vote or records the member's own presence, the member shall be considered to have revoked the authorization to announce the member's vote or record the member's presence in the Senate.

Upon receipt of a member's letter authorizing the presiding officer or altering or revoking the authorization of the presiding officer, the Clerk shall notify the President and the minority leader of the authorization, alteration or revocation. The Clerk shall maintain an updated list of the authorizations, alterations and revocations submitted or in effect under this order and shall make the list publicly available in electronic form and available during any vote subject to this order.

(c) The presiding officer shall answer the roll call on behalf of each member who has authorized the presiding officer to announce the vote or record the presence of the member; provided, however, that the presiding officer shall announce the vote or record the presence in accordance with the member's exact instruction.

(d) A letter under this section may be submitted to the Clerk electronically.; and in section 3, by striking out, in line 38, the words "cast or whose presence is recorded by a proxy" and inserting in place thereof the following words:- "announced or whose presence is recorded by the presiding officer".

Section 2. Notwithstanding Senate Rule 57 or any other rule to the contrary, a member present in the State House may be excused from voting personally in the Senate Chamber at the member's assigned seat by the President due to the risk of exposure to COVID-19 and a court officer shall answer the roll call on behalf of the member.

Section 3. A member whose vote is cast or whose presence is recorded by a proxy under section 1 or for whom a roll call is being answered by a court officer pursuant to section 2 shall be counted for the purpose of establishing a quorum as required pursuant to Senate Rule 64 and Article XXXIII of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth.

Copyright © 2021 State Net