

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

A RESOLUTION

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

5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 SECTION 1.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

45 (4) The members of each house or committee shall be able to submit proposed
 46 legislation, amendments, and other documents through electronic means in accordance
 47 with the rules of the House of Representatives or the Senate, as appropriate."

48 SECTION 2.

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

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

56 SECTION 3.

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

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

63 All persons desiring to vote in favor of ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "Yes."
64 All persons desiring to vote against ratifying the proposed amendment shall vote "No." If
65 such amendment shall be ratified as provided in said Paragraph of the Constitution, it shall
66 become a part of the Constitution of this state.