



CONGRESSIONAL EMERGENCY REMOTE PROCEEDINGS

H.Res. 965 authorizes the Speaker, in consultation with the Minority Leader, to temporarily implement **remote committee proceedings** and **remote voting in the House** when she has been notified by the Sergeant-at-Arms, in consultation with the Attending Physician, of a **public health emergency** due to the coronavirus. The authority lasts for 45 days and can be extended or renewed if the public health emergency persists or there is a resurgence.

This resolution allows Members from across the country to continue legislating on behalf of the American people while adhering to the advice of medical experts and protecting public health.

1) It authorizes remote committee proceedings during the pandemic.

- ▶ During the public health emergency period, committees are authorized to hold **virtual hearings, markups, and depositions** so Members can perform oversight, conduct fact-finding, and prepare legislation for the House floor.
- ▶ Committee chairs can choose to hold entirely virtual proceedings, with Members participating from any location, or they can hold proceedings in the hearing room with some Members participating remotely.
- ▶ Members participating remotely will **count towards a quorum and be able to vote**.
- ▶ Committees are required to use software platforms approved by the CAO for remote participation.

2) It implements remote voting on the House floor during the pandemic.

- ▶ H.Res. 965 allows for **remote voting by proxy** on the House Floor during the public health emergency period. All Members voting remotely will be **counted toward a quorum**.
- ▶ After sending a letter to the Clerk to designate a proxy, Members are permitted to vote remotely on any vote. Members voting remotely will be given 24-hours' notice before any final passage vote to ensure they can secure a proxy if they have not yet designated one.
- ▶ This is not a general proxy. **Proxies must receive exact written instruction** from the Member voting by proxy on each vote, and are required to follow that instruction precisely.
- ▶ To ensure transparency, a list of designated proxies will be posted on the Clerk's website and a list of Members voting remotely will be printed in the Congressional Record following each vote. In addition, Members' votes will be read aloud during the vote.
- ▶ Members could not serve as a designated proxy for more than ten Members.

3) It provides for remote voting through technology during the pandemic, after a system is developed and certified.

- ▶ The resolution directs the chair of the House Administration Committee to **study the feasibility of using technology to vote remotely in the House, and to provide certification upon a determination that there is operable and secure technology for remote voting**.
- ▶ After the certification, the chair of the Rules Committee is directed to issue regulations on the implementation of remote voting. The Speaker is then authorized to notify the House that Members may cast their votes remotely during the public health emergency period covered by the resolution.