

Keeping the Michigan Legislature Open

Working for You During COVID-19



House Democrats know that there is legislative work that must be done to protect Michigan lives now and to mitigate the long-term effects of this virus going forward. The unprecedented challenges we now face must be met with unprecedented solutions, and that includes taking advantage of remote technology to safely and securely keep the Michigan Legislature working for you and your families during this pandemic.

We've proposed some temporary rules to help the Legislature continue completing its most important responsibilities while ensuring Michigan residents can still participate in the process.

Here's how it would work:

- » The Speaker and Minority Leader would authorize members to participate remotely in both committee and session by simultaneous, interactive electronic means.
- » The committee chair would preside from Lansing, while members and the public would participate electronically. Only essential staff may be present.
- » The Speaker, or his designee, would preside over session in the House Chamber. Only other members of caucus leadership would be required to be physically present, unless excused, and other members would be given the option to participate remotely.
- » Committee meetings and session would be available by webcast and broadcast.
- » Members participating remotely may vote on all bills, resolutions, or motions considered in committee or session. To ensure there is no confusion about how votes are cast, they would be conducted by roll call.
- » The electronic means employed for remote committee meetings and session must safeguard the integrity of the legislative process and maintain the deliberative character of the meeting by providing for simultaneous aural and verbal communication among all participants. This includes options for Michiganders with limited internet connectivity, such as audio-only call-in participation.
- » These temporary rules would expire when the state of emergency or state of disaster is terminated, unless otherwise extended by the House.

State Representative **Jim Ellison** | ellison.housedems.com

