

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 5

Establishing grounds under which Members of Congress may vote by proxy and remotely attend committee proceedings in the event of illness, a death in the family, jury service, military service, and other emergency situations, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 28, 2025

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Establishing grounds under which Members of Congress may vote by proxy and remotely attend committee proceedings in the event of illness, a death in the family, jury service, military service, and other emergency situations, and for other purposes.

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring),*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This resolution may be cited as the “Legislative
5 Proxy and Absence Accommodation Resolution”.

1 **SEC. 2. PERMITTING PROXY VOTING AND REMOTE ATTEND-**
 2 **ANCE AT COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS FOR**
 3 **MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-**
 4 **TIVES IN CERTAIN CASES.**

5 (a) PROXY VOTING.—Rule III of the Rules of the
 6 House of Representatives is amended—

7 (1) in clause 2(a), by striking “A Member may
 8 not” and inserting “Except as provided in clause 4,
 9 a Member may not”;

10 (2) in clause 2(b), by striking “No other person
 11 may” and inserting “Except as provided in clause 4,
 12 no other person may”; and

13 (3) by adding at the end the following new
 14 clause:

15 **“Proxy voting**

16 “4.(a) If any of the grounds described in paragraph
 17 (b) applies to a Member, such Member may designate an-
 18 other Member as a proxy who may cast the vote of such
 19 Member or record the presence of such Member in the
 20 House if such Member submits to the Clerk a signed letter
 21 (which may be in electronic form)—

22 “(1) certifying that one of those grounds ap-
 23 plies to such Member; and

24 “(2) specifying by name the other Member who
 25 is designated as a proxy for such Member.

1 “(b) The grounds described in this paragraph with
2 respect to a Member are as follows:

3 “(1) Any of the grounds under which an eligible
4 employee is entitled to leave under subparagraphs
5 (A) through (E) of section 102(a)(1) of the Family
6 and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C.
7 2612(a)(1)), but only if the Member includes with
8 the signed letter required under this paragraph such
9 documentation as the Clerk may require.

10 “(2) An illness of the Member which would not
11 be treated as a serious health condition under sec-
12 tion 102(a)(1)(D) of the Family and Medical Leave
13 Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2612(a)(1)(D)) if the Mem-
14 ber were an eligible employee under such Act, except
15 that the number of days during which a Member
16 may designate a proxy under this clause on the basis
17 of this subparagraph in a calendar year may not ex-
18 ceed 7.

19 “(3) The summoning of the Member, in connec-
20 tion with a judicial proceeding, by a court or author-
21 ity responsible for the conduct of that proceeding, to
22 serve as a juror, but only if the Member includes
23 with the signed letter required under this paragraph
24 such documentation of the summoning as the Clerk
25 may require.

1 “(4) The death of a family member, except that
2 the number of consecutive days during which a
3 Member may designate a proxy under this clause on
4 the basis of this subparagraph with respect to a
5 family member may not exceed 4. For purposes of
6 this subparagraph, the term ‘family member’ means
7 a spouse (including a domestic partner) and a
8 spouse’s parent; a child and a child’s spouse; a par-
9 ent and a parent’s spouse; a sibling and a sibling’s
10 spouse; a grandparent, a grandchild, or a spouse of
11 a grandparent or grandchild; and any other indi-
12 vidual who is related by blood or affinity and whose
13 association with the individual is the equivalent of a
14 family relationship under regulations issued by the
15 Committee on House Administration.

16 “(5) The Member is absent by reason of service
17 in the uniformed services, as defined in section
18 4303(13) of title 38, United States Code, except
19 that the number of days during which a Member
20 may designate a proxy under this clause on the basis
21 of this subparagraph in a calendar year may not ex-
22 ceed 15 in the case of service consisting of active
23 duty, active duty for training, and inactive duty
24 training and may not exceed 22 days in the case of
25 service consisting of State active duty in response to

1 a national emergency or a major disaster referred to
 2 in such section. A Member may designate a proxy
 3 under this clause on the basis of this subparagraph
 4 only if the Member includes with the signed letter
 5 required under this paragraph such documentation
 6 of the service as the Clerk may require.

7 “(6) The Member is prevented from safely trav-
 8 eling to or performing work at the location of the
 9 committee proceeding due to—

10 “(A) an act of God;

11 “(B) a terrorist attack; or

12 “(C) another condition that prevents the
 13 Member from safely traveling to or performing
 14 work at the location of the proceeding.

15 “(c) The Clerk shall maintain an updated list of the
 16 following information, and shall make such list publicly
 17 available in electronic form:

18 “(1) The designations submitted or in effect
 19 under paragraph (a).

20 “(2) With respect to each Member who des-
 21 ignated a proxy under paragraph (a)—

22 “(A) the number of days for which the
 23 Member designated a proxy; and

24 “(B) the grounds under paragraph (b) on
 25 which the Member designated the proxy.

1 “(d) Any Member whose vote is cast or whose pres-
 2 ence is recorded by a designated proxy under this clause
 3 shall be counted for the purpose of establishing a quorum
 4 under the rules of the House.”.

5 (b) REMOTE ATTENDANCE AT COMMITTEE PRO-
 6 CEEDINGS.—Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Rep-
 7 resentatives is amended by adding at the end the following
 8 new clause:

9 **“Remote attendance at committee proceedings in**
 10 **certain cases**

11 “7.(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this
 12 rule, if any of the grounds described in paragraph (b) ap-
 13 plies to a Member and such Member has submitted to the
 14 Clerk a signed letter (which may be in electronic form)
 15 certifying that one of those grounds applies to such Mem-
 16 ber—

17 “(1) such Member may participate remotely
 18 during in-person committee proceedings, including
 19 by casting a vote or recording such Member’s pres-
 20 ence remotely;

21 “(2) such remote participation shall not be con-
 22 sidered an absence for purposes of clause 5(c) of
 23 rule X or clause 2(d) of rule XI; and

1 “(3) such Member shall be counted for the pur-
 2 pose of establishing a quorum under the rules of the
 3 House and the committee.

4 “(b) The grounds described in this paragraph with
 5 respect to a Member are as follows:

6 “(1) Any of the grounds under which an eligible
 7 employee is entitled to leave under subparagraphs
 8 (A) through (E) of section 102(a)(1) of the Family
 9 and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C.
 10 2612(a)(1)), but only if the Member includes with
 11 the signed letter required under this paragraph such
 12 documentation as the Clerk may require.

13 “(2) An illness of the Member which would not
 14 be treated as a serious health condition under sec-
 15 tion 102(a)(1)(D) of the Family and Medical Leave
 16 Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2612(a)(1)(D)) if the Mem-
 17 ber were an eligible employee under such Act, except
 18 that the number of days during which a Member
 19 may participate remotely under this clause on the
 20 basis of this subparagraph in a calendar year may
 21 not exceed 7.

22 “(3) The summoning of the Member, in connec-
 23 tion with a judicial proceeding, by a court or author-
 24 ity responsible for the conduct of that proceeding, to
 25 serve as a juror, but only if the Member includes

1 with the signed letter required under this paragraph
2 such documentation of the summoning as the Clerk
3 may require.

4 “(4) The death of a family member, except that
5 the number of consecutive days during which a
6 Member may participate remotely under this clause
7 on the basis of this subparagraph with respect to a
8 family member may not exceed 4. For purposes of
9 this subparagraph, the term ‘family member’ means
10 a spouse (including a domestic partner) and a
11 spouse’s parent; a child and a child’s spouse; a par-
12 ent and a parent’s spouse; a sibling and a sibling’s
13 spouse; a grandparent, a grandchild, or a spouse of
14 a grandparent or grandchild; and any other indi-
15 vidual who is related by blood or affinity and whose
16 association with the individual is the equivalent of a
17 family relationship under regulations issued by the
18 Committee on House Administration.

19 “(5) The Member is absent by reason of service
20 in the uniformed services, as defined in section
21 4303(13) of title 38, United States Code, except
22 that the number of days during which a Member
23 may participate remotely under this clause on the
24 basis of this subparagraph in a calendar year may
25 not exceed 15 in the case of service consisting of ac-

1 tive duty, active duty for training, and inactive duty
 2 training and may not exceed 22 days in the case of
 3 service consisting of State active duty in response to
 4 a national emergency or a major disaster referred to
 5 in such section. A Member may participate remotely
 6 under this clause on the basis of this subparagraph
 7 only if the Member includes with the signed letter
 8 required under this paragraph such documentation
 9 of the service as the Clerk may require.

10 “(6) The Member is prevented from safely trav-
 11 eling to or performing work at the location of the
 12 committee proceeding due to—

13 “(A) an act of God;

14 “(B) a terrorist attack; or

15 “(C) another condition that prevents the
 16 Member from safely traveling to or performing
 17 work at the location of the proceeding.

18 “(c) The Clerk shall maintain an updated list of the
 19 following information, and shall make such list publicly
 20 available in electronic form:

21 “(1) The Members who are eligible to partici-
 22 pate remotely under this clause.

23 “(2) With respect to each such Member—

24 “(A) the number of days for which the
 25 Member participated remotely; and

1 “(B) the grounds under paragraph (b) on
2 which the Member participated remotely.”.

3 **SEC. 3. PERMITTING PROXY VOTING AND REMOTE ATTEND-**
4 **ANCE AT COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS FOR**
5 **SENATORS IN CERTAIN CASES.**

6 (a) PROXY VOTING.—

7 (1) AUTHORIZING DESIGNATION OF PROXIES.—

8 Notwithstanding any other provision of any of the
9 Standing Rules of the Senate, if any of the grounds
10 described in subsection (c) applies to a Senator, such
11 Senator may designate another Senator as a proxy
12 who may cast the vote of such Senator or record the
13 presence of such Senator in the Senate if such Sen-
14 ator submits to the Secretary of the Senate a signed
15 letter (which may be in electronic form)—

16 (A) certifying that one of those grounds
17 applies to such Senator; and

18 (B) specifying by name the other Senator
19 who is designated as a proxy for such Senator.

20 (2) DETERMINATION OF QUORUM.—Any Sen-
21 ator whose vote is cast or whose presence is recorded
22 by a designated proxy under this section shall be
23 counted for the purpose of establishing a quorum
24 under the Standing Rules of the Senate.

1 (b) REMOTE ATTENDANCE AT COMMITTEE PRO-
 2 CEEDINGS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of any
 3 of the Standing Rules of the Senate, if any of the grounds
 4 described in subsection (c) applies to a Senator, and such
 5 Senator has submitted to the Secretary of the Senate a
 6 signed letter (which may be in electronic form) certifying
 7 that one of those grounds applies to such Senator, such
 8 Senator may participate remotely during in-person com-
 9 mittee proceedings, including by casting a vote or record-
 10 ing such Senator’s presence remotely, and—

11 (1) such remote participation shall not be con-
 12 sidered an absence for purposes of any provision of
 13 the Standing Rules of the Senate; and

14 (2) a Senator participating remotely pursuant
 15 to this subsection shall be counted for the purpose
 16 of establishing a quorum under the Standing Rules
 17 of the Senate and the committee.

18 (c) GROUNDS DESCRIBED.—The grounds described
 19 in this subsection with respect to a Senator are as follows:

20 (1) Any of the grounds under which an eligible
 21 employee is entitled to leave under subparagraphs
 22 (A) through (E) of section 102(a)(1) of the Family
 23 and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C.
 24 2612(a)(1)), but only if the Member includes with

1 the signed letter required under this paragraph such
2 documentation as the Secretary may require.

3 (2) An illness of the Senator which would not
4 be treated as a serious health condition under sec-
5 tion 102(a)(1)(D) of the Family and Medical Leave
6 Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2612(a)(1)(D)) if the Sen-
7 ator were an eligible employee under such Act, ex-
8 cept that the number of days during which a Sen-
9 ator may designate a proxy under subsection (a) or
10 may participate remotely under subsection (b) on
11 the basis of this paragraph in a calendar year may
12 not exceed 7.

13 (3) The summoning of the Senator, in connec-
14 tion with a judicial proceeding, by a court or author-
15 ity responsible for the conduct of that proceeding, to
16 serve as a juror, but only if the Senator includes
17 with the signed letter required under this paragraph
18 such documentation of the summoning as the Clerk
19 may require.

20 (4) The death of a family member, except that
21 the number of consecutive days during which a Sen-
22 ator may designate a proxy under subsection (a) or
23 may participate remotely under subsection (b) on
24 the basis of this paragraph with respect to a family
25 member may not exceed 4. For purposes of this

1 paragraph, the term “family member” means a
2 spouse (including a domestic partner) and a spouse’s
3 parent; a child and a child’s spouse; a parent and
4 a parent’s spouse; a sibling and a sibling’s spouse;
5 a grandparent, a grandchild, or a spouse of a grand-
6 parent or grandchild; and any other individual who
7 is related by blood or affinity and whose association
8 with the individual is the equivalent of a family rela-
9 tionship under regulations issued by the Committee
10 on Rules and Administration.

11 (5) The Senator is absent by reason of service
12 in the uniformed services, as defined in section
13 4303(13) of title 38, United States Code, except
14 that the number of days during which a Senator
15 may designate a proxy under subsection (a) or may
16 participate remotely under subsection (b) on the
17 basis of this paragraph in a calendar year may not
18 exceed 15 in the case of service consisting of active
19 duty, active duty for training, and inactive duty
20 training and may not exceed 22 days in the case of
21 service consisting of State active duty in response to
22 a national emergency or a major disaster referred to
23 in such section. A Senator may designate a proxy
24 under subsection (a) or may participate remotely
25 under subsection (b) on the basis of this paragraph

1 only if the Senator includes with the signed letter re-
 2 quired under such subsections such documentation
 3 of the service as the Secretary may require.

4 (6) The Senator is prevented from safely trav-
 5 eling to or performing work at the location of the
 6 committee proceeding due to—

7 (A) an act of God;

8 (B) a terrorist attack; or

9 (C) another condition that prevents the
 10 Senator from safely traveling to or performing
 11 work at the location of the proceeding.

12 (d) MAINTENANCE OF INFORMATION BY SEC-
 13 RETARY.—The Secretary shall maintain an updated list
 14 of the following information, and shall make such list pub-
 15 licly available in electronic form:

16 (1) The designations of proxies submitted or in
 17 effect under subsection (a).

18 (2) With respect to each Senator who des-
 19 ignated a proxy under subsection (a)—

20 (A) the number of days for which the Sen-
 21 ator designated a proxy; and

22 (B) the grounds under subsection (c) on
 23 which the Senator designated the proxy.

24 (3) The Senators who are eligible to participate
 25 remotely under subsection (b).

1 (4) With respect to each Senator who is eligible
2 to participate remotely under subsection (b)—

3 (A) the number of days for which the Sen-
4 ator participated remotely; and

5 (B) the grounds under subsection (c) on
6 which the Senator participated remotely.

○