

**JOINT RULES RESOLUTION -
AUTHORIZING ELECTRONIC COMMITTEE
MEETINGS**

2008 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Lyle W. Hillyard

House Sponsor: Roger E. Barrus

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill authorizes legislative interim committees, task forces, and subcommittees to allow some members to participate in the meeting electronically from a remote location.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- ▶ authorizes certain legislative committees to conduct electronic meetings; and
- ▶ establishes standards and requirements for notice and conduct of those meetings.

Special Clauses:

None

Legislative Rules Affected:

ENACTS:

IR3-1-105

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. **IR3-1-105** is enacted to read:

IR3-1-105. Electronic Meetings.

(1) As used in this rule:

(a) "Anchor location" means the physical location in the building and city where the



28 committee would normally meet and from which the electronic meeting originates or from
29 which the participants are connected.

30 (b) "Committee" means an interim committee, special committee, or subcommittee of
31 the Legislature.

32 (c) "Electronic meeting" means a public meeting of a committee that is partially
33 convened or conducted by means of a telephonic, telecommunications, or computer conference.

34 (d) "Electronic notice" means electronic mail or fax.

35 (e) "Monitor" means to:

36 (i) hear live, by speaker, or by other equipment, all of the public statements of each
37 member of the committee who is participating in a meeting; or

38 (ii) see and hear, by computer screen or other visual medium, all of the public
39 statements of each member of the committee who is participating in a meeting.

40 (f) "Participate" means the ability to communicate with all of the members of a
41 committee, either verbally or electronically, so that each member of the committee can hear or
42 see the communication.

43 (g) "Public hearing" means a committee meeting at which comments from the public
44 will be accepted.

45 (h) "Public statement" means a statement made in the ordinary course of business of
46 the committee with the intent that all other members of the public body receive it.

47 (i) "Remote location" means a location other than the anchor location from which a
48 committee member may participate in the meeting.

49 (2) A committee chair may, by following the procedures and requirements of this
50 section, convene and conduct an electronic meeting.

51 (3) (a) If a committee member wishes to participate in a committee meeting from a
52 remote location, the committee member shall, at least three days before the meeting, contact
53 the committee chair and request that the chair convene and conduct an electronic meeting.

54 (b) After receiving the request, the chair shall consult with committee staff to
55 determine whether or not there are sufficient equipment and connections to allow the
56 committee member to participate from a remote location.

57 (c) If sufficient equipment and connections exist, and if no more than one other
58 committee member has been approved to attend from a remote location, the chair may grant the

59 committee member's request to participate from a remote location.

60 (4) A chair convening or conducting an electronic meeting shall:

61 (a) establish the anchor location for the public meeting in the building and city where
62 the committee would normally meet if it were not holding an electronic meeting;

63 (b) provide space and facilities at the anchor location so that interested persons and the
64 public may attend and monitor the open portions of the meeting;

65 (c) if the meeting is a public hearing, or if the chair intends to allow public comment,
66 provide space and facilities at the anchor location so that interested persons and the public may
67 attend, monitor, and participate in the open portions of the meeting; and

68 (d) if necessary, establish and communicate protocols and procedures governing the
69 electronic meeting to ensure order and fair opportunities to participate by those committee
70 members participating electronically at one or more remote locations and at the anchor
71 location.

72 (5) A chair convening or conducting an electronic meeting shall ensure that:

73 (a) public notice of the meeting as required by Section 52-4-202 of the Utah Code is
74 given including posting written notice at the anchor location; and

75 (b) in addition to giving public notice required by Subsection (5)(a), notice of the
76 electronic meeting given to committee members at least 24 hours before the meeting shall
77 describe how the committee members will be connected to the electronic meeting.

78 (6) A committee member participating from a remote location is included in
79 calculating a quorum and may vote.

Legislative Review Note
as of 1-22-08 2:08 PM

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

Fiscal Note**S.J.R. 7 - Joint Rules Resolution - Authorizing Electronic Committee Meetings**

2008 General Session

State of Utah

State Impact

Enactment of this bill will not require additional appropriations. The bill may lead to a reduction in legislative costs.

Individual, Business and/or Local Impact

Enactment of this bill likely will not result in direct, measurable costs and/or benefits for individuals, businesses, or local governments.
