

2021 -- H 5863

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

A N A C T

RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE -- EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Introduced By: Representatives McLaughlin, Hull, and Chippendale

Date Introduced: February 24, 2021

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 30-15 of the General Laws entitled "Emergency Management" is
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **30-15-9.1. Duties of general assembly relating to disaster emergencies.**

4 The general assembly shall be responsible to respond to a state of emergency issued by the
5 governor pursuant to § 30-15-9 in the following manner:

6 (1) With regard to any emergency declaration made by the governor which is extended
7 under the provisions of this chapter the general assembly shall convene within the thirty (30) days
8 of the expiration of the first emergency declaration;

9 (2) Pursuant to the powers conferred by this section the house of representatives and the
10 senate may conduct meetings and hearings virtually by electronic means if the interests of public
11 safety require.

12 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO MILITARY AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE -- EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1 This act would mandate that the general assembly convene within thirty (30) days after the
2 first extension of a declared state of emergency by the governor pursuant to his or her emergency
3 powers. It would also authorize the general assembly to utilize electronic means to conduct
4 meetings and hearings virtually in the event there is a danger to public safety.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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