

2020 -- S 2846

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION

AMENDING THE RULES OF THE SENATE FOR YEARS 2019-2020

Introduced By: Senators Lombardi, McCaffrey, and Ruggerio

Date Introduced: May 26, 2020

Referred To: Senate Rules, Government Ethics and Oversight

1 RESOLVED, That Section 10 of the rules for the Senate adopted by the Senate at its
2 January session, A.D. 2019, entitled "Senate Resolution Adopting Rules of the Senate for the
3 Years 2019-2020," be and the same is hereby amended by adding thereto the following rule:
4 [10.7.1 Voting by Proxy During Declared State of Emergency.](#)
5 Notwithstanding any senate rule to the contrary, during any declared state of emergency
6 and while the senate is in session, a senator may request from the presiding officer permission to
7 vote by proxy on any bill or matter before the senate. The presiding officer shall, when deciding
8 to grant or deny the request, consider whether the senator making the request would face a
9 hardship in attending session, or, during a contagion, falls within a high-risk category as defined
10 by the Rhode Island Department of Health or an equivalent agency. If the presiding officer grants
11 a senator permission to vote by proxy, the presiding officer shall notify the secretary of the senate
12 of the decision to allow such vote by proxy. The secretary of the senate shall prepare a proxy(ies)
13 for each senator voting by proxy, in a form substantially as follows: The bill number or matter to
14 be voted on followed by a box to approve and a box to disapprove. The secretary of the senate
15 shall deliver the proxy(ies), by email or hand delivery, to each senator authorized to vote by
16 proxy. Any senator voting by proxy shall have their signature notarized and shall return the
17 notarized proxy(ies), by email or hand delivery, to the leader of their respective caucus. The
18 majority or minority leader shall forward the executed proxy(ies) to the secretary of the senate to
19 be recorded in the journal.

- 1 The right to vote by proxy shall cease on the date that the state of emergency is officially declared
- 2 over.

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