

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 201

Amending the Standing Rules of the Senate to enable the participation
of absent Senators during a national crisis.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 29, 2021

Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr.
KING, and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted the following resolution; which was re-
ferred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

RESOLUTION

Amending the Standing Rules of the Senate to enable the
participation of absent Senators during a national crisis.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. PARTICIPATION OF ABSENT SENATORS DUR-**
3 **ING A NATIONAL CRISIS.**

4 Rule XII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is
5 amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “5. Senators may use technology that has been
7 approved by the Secretary of the Senate and the
8 Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate as
9 reliable and secure to cast their votes from outside
10 of the Senate Chamber if the majority leader or his

1 or her designee and the minority leader or his or her
2 designee jointly determine that an extraordinary cri-
3 sis of national extent exists in which it would be in-
4 feasible for Senators to cast their votes in person. If
5 such a crisis is determined to exist, Senators may
6 cast votes under this paragraph during the 30-day
7 period beginning on the date on which such deter-
8 mination is made, unless such period is extended for
9 one or more additional 30-day periods by an affirm-
10 ative vote of three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen
11 and sworn. During such period, Senators partici-
12 pating remotely and using approved technology to
13 cast their votes under this paragraph shall be
14 deemed present for purposes of establishing the
15 presence of a quorum. The determination made
16 under this paragraph shall not rely on any decision
17 of any other branch of the United States Govern-
18 ment. The majority leader or his or her designee and
19 the minority leader or his or her designee shall sub-
20 mit at the beginning of the first session of each Con-
21 gress an order for designees of each caucus in the
22 case of such a crisis.”.

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