A RESOLUTION

ENACTING AND SUSPENDING CERTAIN SENATE RULES FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE TO ALLOW REMOTE PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS AND PROVIDE PROCEDURES TO CONDUCT PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE DURING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, Senate Rule 24-1 provides that the rules of the senate may be amended by a two-thirds' majority vote of the members of the senate or by a majority vote of the members of the senate upon the recommendation of the rules committee;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the following new senate rules, effective for the remainder of the fifty-fourth legislature, be adopted to read:

"4-1-1 The president shall ensure that all members, staff and employees who are physically present in the
senate, galleries, lobby, senate committee rooms and 
rooms connected therewith follow proper social 
distancing, including by limiting the number of 
persons physically present, and are provided with 
appropriate personal protection equipment during a 
declared public health emergency. The presiding 
officer shall ensure that each member wear a mask 
that covers the mouth and nose while on the floor or 
in committee."; and

"7-1-1 A senator shall be considered to be present and in 
attendance for the purposes of establishing a quorum 
if the member is physically present or in the 
Senator's capitol office as confirmed by the 
presiding officer of the senate, or chair in the 
case of a standing committee. For purposes of a 
call, members who are present must vote on the 
legislation that is the subject of the call. 
Senators are strongly encouraged to remain in their 
respective offices when not on the floor, in 
committee or in caucus and to remain in the capitol 
or advise their respective whip if they must leave 
for any reason."; and

"7-1-2 A senator who has tested positive for coronavirus 
disease 2019 or has been in personal contact with a 
person who has tested positive for coronavirus
disease 2019 shall inform the senator's respective
floor leader or whip. The senator may be excused or
shall self-isolate in the senator's capitol office.
A senator participating from the senator's capitol
office pursuant to this rule shall be provided with
the opportunity to debate and vote by electronic
means from that senator's office and shall be
considered present for the purposes of a quorum or a
call of the senate."; and

"7-5-1 A senator who is present from the senator's capitol
office may vote by entering the senate chamber and
casting the senator's vote from the well of the
senate in front of the chief clerk."; and

"7-8-1 A senator who is present from the senator's capitol
office during a session and wishes to be recognized
shall contact the senator's respective floor leader
or whip, who shall then request the president to add
that member's name to the list of senators desiring
to be recognized. A senator who is present on the
senate floor from the senator's capitol office may
debate by entering the senate chamber and debating
from the well of the senate."; and

"11-9-2 Electronic signatures may be used by sponsors to
sign bills, resolutions or memorials or amendments
thereto."; and

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Committee reports on a bill, resolution or memorial may be digitally signed and electronically transmitted from the committee to the chief clerk.''

and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Senate Rules 23-3 and 23-4-1 be suspended, effective for the remainder of the fifty-fourth legislature.