

# STATE OF MAINE

In Senate \_\_\_\_\_

**ORDERED**, the House concurring, that the Joint Rules of the 130th Legislature are the Joint Rules of the 131st Legislature, except for the following changes:

Joint Rule 202 is amended by striking out all of the first paragraph and inserting in its place the following:

All requests for bills and resolves submitted by Legislators for a first regular session must be submitted in complete form, as provided in Joint Rule 208, to the Revisor of Statutes by 4:00 p.m. on December 30, 2022.

Joint Rule 208 is amended by striking out all of the third paragraph and inserting in its place the following:

The Revisor of Statutes shall prepare in concept form a bill submitted pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 149 that proposes to make unified appropriations and allocations for the expenditures of state government for the biennium or supplemental appropriations and allocations, and shall include an Internet address at which may be found the text of the draft unified budget bill or supplemental budget bill submitted to the Revisor of Statutes by the Governor.

Joint Rule 306 is amended by striking out all of the first paragraph and inserting in its place the following:

A quorum is 7 members, and a quorum must be present to start a meeting or to take a vote. A quorum is not required to continue a meeting. If a quorum is present, but there is not a Senator among those present, the committee may take a vote only with the authorization of the President of the Senate. For purposes of establishing a quorum, only those members physically present at the meeting may be counted.

Joint Rule 310 is amended by striking out all of subsection 5 and inserting in its place the following:

**5. Committee Voting.** The committee clerk shall prepare the committee jacket or jackets following the vote and obtain signatures from committee members as required. If all members are not present for the vote, the bill must be held until the following periods have expired.

A. If any member is absent from the committee at the time of the vote, that member's vote may be registered with the clerk up until noon on the 2nd business day following the vote.

B. If the presiding officers jointly determine that operational needs of the Legislature so require, they may require that a member who is absent from the committee at the time of the vote register that member's vote by noon on the next business day following the committee vote.

A member who is not physically present at the meeting but who received permission from that member's presiding officer to participate by electronic means is deemed to be present for purposes of voting, but only for voting on committee reports as specified in subsection 2 and only if the member votes in a manner that provides opportunity for those physically present at the meeting to see and hear how that member voted.

A member may be excused from voting only for a conflict of interest under Joint Rule 104.

Except for a motion to adjourn, a question may not be decided and official action may not be taken in the absence of a quorum.

No committee vote on a bill may be taken after 10:30 p.m. or before 7:30 a.m. unless authorized by the presiding officers. If the presiding officers provide this authorization, they shall notify the other members of the Legislative Council concurrently.

**SPONSORED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**(Senator VITELLI, E.)**

**COUNTY: Sagadahoc**