

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 23

Permitting parental remote voting by proxy, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 9, 2025

Ms. PETERSEN (for herself, Mrs. LUNA, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. CISCOMANI, Ms. PEREZ, Mrs. KIM, Mr. VAN DREW, and Mr. NEGUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

RESOLUTION

Permitting parental remote voting by proxy, and for other purposes.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

3 This resolution may be cited as the “Proxy Voting
4 for New Parents Resolution”.

5 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF REMOTE VOTING BY PROXY IN**
6 **HOUSE AND IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**
7 **FOR MEMBERS BECOMING PARENTS.**

8 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding rule III, in
10 the case of a Member who has given birth or whose

1 spouse has given birth, such Member may designate
2 another Member as a proxy who may cast the vote
3 of such Member or record the presence of such
4 Member in the House and in the Committee of the
5 Whole House on the state of the Union in accord-
6 ance with this section.

7 (2) PERIOD OF AUTHORIZATION.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided
9 under subparagraph (B), the authority to vote
10 by proxy or record a presence pursuant to para-
11 graph (1) shall begin on the date of the birth
12 and shall terminate 12 weeks thereafter.

13 (B) DESIGNATION PRIOR TO BIRTH.—Not-
14 withstanding subparagraph (A), a Member may
15 instead make a designation prior to the birth of
16 a child in the event that such Member's health
17 care provider advises that her pregnancy pre-
18 sents a serious medical condition or that she is
19 unable to travel safely. Such authority to vote
20 by proxy or record a presence shall terminate
21 12 weeks after the initial designation. Each
22 week prior to the birth of the child during
23 which a Member does not have a designated
24 proxy shall not constitute a week for purposes
25 of this subparagraph.

1 (b) REQUIREMENTS FOR DESIGNATION BY MEM-
2 BER.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—In order for a Member to
4 designate another Member as a proxy under sub-
5 section (a), the Member shall submit to the Clerk a
6 signed and dated letter (which may be in electronic
7 form). Such letter must be submitted prior to the
8 start of the first vote in which the Member wishes
9 to vote by proxy and must include—

10 (A) an affirmative statement of—

11 (i) the birth of a child in the case of
12 a designation under subparagraph (A) of
13 subsection (a)(2); or

14 (ii) the existence of a medical condi-
15 tion related to pregnancy as stipulated by
16 the Member's health care provider in the
17 case of a designation under subparagraph
18 (B) of subsection (a)(2);

19 (B) a statement of intent to vote by proxy,
20 including the name and State of the Member
21 who has agreed to be designated as a proxy;
22 and

23 (C) an original signature of the Member
24 making the designation.

1 (2) ALTERATION AND REVOCATION.—At any
2 time after submitting a letter to designate a proxy
3 under paragraph (1), such Member may submit to
4 the Clerk a signed letter (which may be in electronic
5 form) altering or revoking the designation.

6 (3) AUTOMATIC REVOCATION UPON CASTING OF
7 VOTE OR RECORDING OF PRESENCE.—If a Member
8 who has designated another Member as a proxy
9 under this section casts the Member’s own vote or
10 records the Member’s own presence in the House or
11 in the Committee of the Whole House on the state
12 of the Union, the Member shall be considered to
13 have revoked the designation of any proxy under this
14 section. Revocation of proxy does not prohibit a
15 Member from designating a proxy at a later time.

16 (c) RESPONSIBILITIES OF CLERK.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Upon receipt of a letter sub-
18 mitted by a Member pursuant to subsection (b), the
19 Clerk shall—

20 (A) verify the letter;

21 (B) notify the Speaker, the Majority Lead-
22 er, the Minority Leader, and the other Member
23 or Members involved in the designation, alter-
24 ation, or revocation; and

1 (C) if a letter is missing any of the items
2 under subsection (b)(1), notify the submitting
3 Member of the deficiency, which shall result in
4 the proxy being unable to vote on the Member's
5 behalf.

6 (2) MAINTENANCE OF LIST.—The Clerk shall
7 maintain an updated list of the active designations,
8 alterations, and revocations pursuant to this section
9 and shall make such list publicly available in elec-
10 tronic form.

11 (d) PROCEDURES FOR CASTING VOTES OR RECORD-
12 ING PRESENCE BY PROXIES.—

13 (1) USE OF BALLOT CARD.—In the case of a
14 vote by electronic device, a Member who casts a vote
15 or records a presence as a designated proxy for an-
16 other Member under this section shall do so by bal-
17 lot card, indicating on the ballot card “by proxy”.

18 (2) INSTRUCTIONS FROM MEMBER.—Prior to
19 casting the vote or recording the presence of another
20 Member as a designated proxy under this section,
21 the Member shall obtain an exact instruction from
22 the other Member with respect to such vote. The
23 Member voting by proxy, to the maximum extent
24 practicable, shall provide written voting instruction
25 to the Member serving as proxy.

1 Member sits as a proxy who may cast the vote of such
2 Member in committee in accordance with this section dur-
3 ing the same period in which another Member is author-
4 ized to cast the vote of such Member under section 2.

5 (b) REQUIREMENTS FOR DESIGNATION.—In order
6 for a Member to designate a committee member as a proxy
7 under subsection (a), the Member shall submit to the chair
8 and ranking minority member a signed and dated letter
9 (which may be in electronic form) specifying by name the
10 other Member who is designated as a proxy for such Mem-
11 ber. Such letter must be submitted prior to the start of
12 the first committee meeting in which the Member wishes
13 to vote by proxy.

14 (c) ALTERATION AND REVOCATION.—At any time
15 after submitting a letter to designate a proxy under sub-
16 section (b), such Member may submit to the chair and
17 ranking minority member a signed letter (which may be
18 in electronic form) altering or revoking the designation.

19 (d) AUTOMATIC REVOCATION UPON CASTING OF
20 VOTE OR RECORDING OF PRESENCE.—If a Member who
21 has designated another Member as a proxy under this sec-
22 tion casts the Member's own vote in a committee, the
23 Member shall be considered to have revoked the designa-
24 tion of proxy in that committee under this section. Revoca-

1 tion of proxy does not prohibit a Member from designating
2 a proxy at a later time.

3 (e) INSTRUCTIONS FROM MEMBER.—Prior to casting
4 the vote of another Member as a designated proxy under
5 this section, the Member shall obtain an exact instruction
6 from the other Member with respect to such vote. The
7 Member voting by proxy, to the maximum extent prac-
8 ticable, shall provide written voting instruction to the
9 Member serving as proxy.

10 (f) PROHIBITING USE OF PROXY TO ESTABLISH
11 QUORUM.—Any Member whose vote is cast in committee
12 by a designated proxy under this section shall not be
13 counted for purposes of establishing a quorum under the
14 rules of the committee.

15 **SEC. 4. APPLICATION TO DELEGATES AND THE RESIDENT**
16 **COMMISSIONER.**

17 For purposes of sections 2 and 3, the term “Member”
18 shall include a Delegate and the Resident Commissioner
19 and the term “State” shall include the District of Colum-
20 bia and a territory, except that—

21 (1) nothing in this section authorizes a Dele-
22 gate or the Resident Commissioner to cast a vote in
23 the House or record their presence in the House;
24 and

1 (2) a Delegate and the Resident Commissioner
2 may be designated as a proxy for purposes of section
3 2 only by a Delegate or the Resident Commissioner.

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