

SCR 9 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 2/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires committees and subcommittees in Senate and House of Representatives, and joint committees and subcommittees of Legislative Assembly, to accept remote testimony given by telephonic or electronic means. Prohibits the Legislative Assembly from charging fees to do so. Requires Legislative Policy and Research Director to post on legislative website procedures witnesses may follow to testify remotely. Requires director to post procedures within seven calendar days of adoption of resolution. Allows committee staff to make written summary of remote testimony to satisfy recordkeeping requirements if sound recording quality of remote hearing is inadequate.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Chamber rules are adopted by the Senate and House of Representatives each two-year Legislative Assembly term, the current term being the 81st Legislative Assembly. Senate Chamber Rule 8.15 allows remote committee meetings, but is silent about the specifics of accepting remote testimony. However, the uniform Senate committee rules adopted by each Senate committee require remote testimony to be accepted. Senate Concurrent Resolution 9 would add a rule to each set of chamber rules for the 81st Legislative Assembly, requiring all committees and subcommittees in each chamber to accept remote testimony given by telephonic or electronic means.