

# Joint Rules

## 44. RULES OF PROCEDURE DURING A DECLARED DISASTER EMERGENCY

(a) This rule shall apply if the Governor, pursuant to the relevant portions of the "Colorado Disaster Emergency Act", part 7 of article 33.5 of title 24, Colorado Revised Statutes, has issued an executive order that declares that the state of Colorado is in a state of disaster emergency caused by a public health emergency infecting or exposing a great number of people to disease, agents, toxins, or other such threats and has activated the Colorado emergency operations plan.

(b) If the conditions described in subsection (a) of this rule are met and the General Assembly meets either in regular session or in a special session, however convened, the procedures set forth in this rule shall be followed in addition to any applicable rules of the Senate or the House of Representatives or the Joint Rules.

(c) After receiving notification from the Governor that the state of Colorado is in a declared disaster emergency, the Executive Committee of the Legislative Council, referred to in this rule as the "executive committee", shall meet and set forth the following in writing:

(1) If the General Assembly is in regular session, the list of items or topics on which members of the General Assembly may submit requests for bills to address the particular disaster emergency and the prioritization of any pending legislation relating to the state budget or to state policies that the executive committee deems necessary to enact prior to adjournment or recess of the regular session. In exercising its authority under this subsection (c), the executive committee shall determine what budgetary issues still need to be addressed for the current or upcoming fiscal year and identify the critical responsibilities of the General Assembly in light of the declared disaster emergency. The goal of the executive committee shall be to reprioritize the remaining work of the regular session and to only address those mission-critical responsibilities prior to adjournment or recess of the regular session. For purposes of determining mission-critical responsibilities, the executive committee shall consider the status of the following:

- (A) Repealed, Senate Joint Resolution 13-035, May 8, 2013;
- (B) Repealed, House Joint Resolution 10-1017, April 15, 2010;
- (C) The annual general appropriation act;
- (D) The legislative appropriation bill;
- (E) Any supplemental appropriation bills;

(F) The school finance bill; and

(G) Any other issues that, in the estimation of the executive committee, are critical to address prior to a recess or adjournment of the regular session.

(2) A limit on the number of bill requests that a member of the House of Representatives or of the Senate may request and a limit on the number of bills that a member of the House of Representatives or of the Senate may introduce;

(3) A deadline schedule including the dates when the General Assembly shall convene or resume meeting;

(4) If necessary, the President and the Speaker or their designees shall activate the critical information call tree of the General Assembly;

(5) If the executive committee, in consultation with the Governor and the representatives of the department of public health and environment, determine that there is an increased health risk to the members of the General Assembly or to the public of meeting in the state capitol building during the declared disaster emergency, the executive committee may make other arrangements to have the General Assembly meet on a temporary basis in another location in the city and county of Denver or, if an alternate location cannot be found within the city and county of Denver, in another location within the state.

(d) Upon convening as a General Assembly and ascertaining that there is a quorum to meet, the House of Representatives and the Senate shall each adopt by a simple majority vote the rules of the House of Representatives and the Senate and the Joint Rules as the temporary rules.

(e) (1) Notwithstanding any committees of reference that have been constituted for a regular session of the General Assembly pursuant to Senate Rule 21, new committees of reference shall be appointed by resolution to serve during the period of the disaster emergency. The party representation of such newly constituted committees shall be in proportion, as nearly as practicable, as determined by the majority leader, to the relative number of members of the two major political parties in the Senate. The majority leader of the Senate shall determine the minimum number of members for each committee of reference meeting during the disaster emergency, shall designate the number from each political party, and shall appoint the majority members to the committees of reference. The minority leader shall appoint the minority members to such committees. The majority leader and the minority leader may appoint any substitute members as necessary in order to ensure that each committee has adequate representation.

(2) Notwithstanding any committees of reference that have been constituted for a regular session of the General Assembly pursuant to House Rule 25, new committees of reference shall be appointed by resolution to serve during the period of the disaster emergency. The party representation of such newly constituted committees shall be in proportion, as nearly as practicable, as determined by the Speaker, to the relative number of members of the two major political parties in the House of Representatives. The Speaker shall determine the minimum number of members for each committee of reference meeting during the disaster emergency, shall designate the number from each political party, and shall appoint the majority members to the committees of reference. The minority leader shall appoint the minority members to such committees. The Speaker and the minority leader may appoint any substitute members as necessary in order to ensure that each committee has adequate representation.

(3) The committees appointed pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection (e) shall only be in existence during the declared disaster emergency. Once the state of disaster emergency has passed or has been dealt with to the extent that emergency conditions no longer exist pursuant to section 24-33.5-704 (4), Colorado Revised Statutes, the committees of reference in existence prior to the disaster emergency shall be restored.

(f) Nothing in this rule shall be interpreted as changing the constitutional requirements for the number of legislators required to pass a bill by majority vote in either the House of Representatives or the Senate.

(g) Notwithstanding the provisions of Joint Rule 23 (d) of the Joint Rules of the Senate and the House of Representatives regarding counting legislative days of a regular session as consecutive days, the maximum of one hundred twenty calendar days prescribed by section 7 of article V of the state constitution shall be counted as one hundred twenty separate working calendar days if the Governor has declared a state of disaster emergency due to a public health emergency pursuant to section 24-33.5-704, Colorado Revised Statutes. Once the disaster emergency is over, the House of Representatives and the Senate shall resume following Joint Rule 23 (d) during regular sessions.

(h) (1) In addition to all of the powers, duties, and responsibilities set forth in Senate Rule 13 and in any other Senate rule, the secretary of the Senate shall have additional powers and authority, as the secretary deems necessary, in a declared disaster emergency to implement new or streamlined methods of operations and may suspend requirements set forth in the Rules of the Senate and the Joint Rules in order to preserve the resources of the Senate and function effectively during the disaster emergency.

(2) In addition to all of the powers, duties, and responsibilities set forth in House Rule 43 and in any other House rule, the chief clerk of the House of Representatives shall have additional powers and authority, as the chief clerk deems necessary, in a declared disaster emergency to implement new or streamlined methods of operations and may suspend requirements set forth in the Rules of the House of Representatives and the Joint Rules in order to preserve the resources of the House of Representatives and function effectively during the disaster emergency.

The House, Senate, and Joint Rules can be found at:

<http://leg.colorado.gov/house-senate-rules>