

**HCR 24 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****Carrier:** Rep. Hack**House Committee On Rules****Action Date:** 06/01/17**Action:** Be adopted with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)**Vote:** 8-0-1-0**Yeas:** 8 - Barreto, Hack, Holvey, Kennemer, McLane, Nosse, Smith Warner, Williamson**Exc:** 1 - Rayfield**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Erin Seiler, LPRO Analyst**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Permits President of the Senate and Speaker of the House to authorize, by rule, all committees of the legislature to accept remote testimony via video conferencing. Directs Legislative Administrator and director of Legislative Policy and Research Office to develop protocols as specified and post instructions on legislative website. Suspends rule until Legislative Administrator reports adequate technology and infrastructure are in place to implement.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Increasing participation in legislative process
- Improving access for people with disabilities, seniors or people who live in rural areas
- Implementation of videoconferencing
- Modernizing legislative practices

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Permits President of the Senate and Speaker of the House to authorize, by rule, all committees of legislature to accept remote testimony via video conferencing. Directs Legislative Administrator and director of Legislative Policy and Research Office to develop and post instructions on legislative website about how to testify and to determine minimum amount of time, in advance of hearing, that witnesses must give notice of interest in remote testimony.

**BACKGROUND:**

The legislative committee process of public meetings provides legislators with opportunities to hear from many people who support or oppose proposed legislation, and provides citizens with opportunities for active participation in the lawmaking process. The most common forms of citizen participation are: the submission of written testimony to a committee regarding a measure or issue (which is distributed to legislators and posted publicly on the Oregon Legislative Information System); and attending public hearings at the Oregon State Capitol in-person, to sign-up and speak directly to a committee. On a case-by-case basis, when travel to Salem is not practicable, a committee may receive testimony by phone or video conference. These cases are limited to specific circumstances such as required appearances for executive appointment hearings, state budget or redistricting issues.

House Concurrent Resolution 24-A permits the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House to authorize, by rule, all committees of the legislature to accept remote testimony via video conferencing. Enabling video testimony for all legislative committees will require an assessment of current resources; identifying and acquiring adequate technology and infrastructure; identifying and securing remote locations with trained staff where people can go to connect and testify; and development of protocols for the public to inform committees in advance so they are prepared to receive and record such testimony. The resolution suspends implementation until the Legislative Administrator reports to the chairs of the Legislative Administration Committee that these preparatory steps have been satisfied.