

Amendment To The Rules Of The Ulster County Legislature To Permit Videoconferencing

Referred to: The Laws and Rules, Governmental Services Committee (Chairman Roberts and Legislators Fabiano, Maio, Ronk, Donaldson, Loughran and Robert Parete)

Legislators Wayne Harris and Robert Parete offer the following:

WHEREAS, Section 103(c) of the Public Officers Law provides:

“(c) A public body that uses videoconferencing to conduct its meetings shall provide an opportunity for the public to attend, listen and observe at any site at which a member participates,” and

WHEREAS, Legislators have requested that videoconferencing be permitted to be utilized; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Rule 10 of the Legislature is amended by adding a section labeled as “CC.” to read as follows:

“CC. Regular and special meetings may be attended *via* videoconference, when the following process and criteria are met and implemented:

1. Any Legislator requesting to attend a meeting via videoconference pursuant to Section 103(c) of the Public Officers Law may file a written request with the Clerk of the Legislature as soon the Legislator becomes aware of the meeting and that he or she will not be able to personally attend the meeting in the Legislative Chambers.
2. The Clerk of the Legislature shall make arrangements for the videoconferencing; provided, however, that if there is a cost to the County of Ulster chargeable to the Legislature, the Clerk shall first ascertain whether the Legislature has sufficient funds to pay the costs if chargeable to the Legislature, and shall, prior to agreeing to incur such costs, receive approval from the Chairman of the Legislature.
3. The Chairman of the Legislature shall permit such videoconferencing if it reasonably appears to him or her that sufficient funds are available and will not otherwise be necessary for the operation of the Legislature during the fiscal year. The video conference shall be conducted in a manner compliant with State Law and shall ensure that all Legislators have the opportunity to see and hear any Legislator videoconferencing in the meeting and that such videoconferencing Legislator(s) can see and hear the other members of the Legislature.

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4. Costs, if any, associated with the securing or equipment at the remote location, the renting of the remote location, any connection or communication fee charged by the remote location shall be borne by that Legislator who is attending remotely, and shall not be the responsibility of the Ulster County Legislature or Ulster County.
5. Any Legislator attending via videoconference shall ensure that public accessibility is permitted at the location of such Legislator pursuant to Section 104 of the Public Officers Law.

~~and be it further~~

~~RESOLVED, that this Section CC of Rule 10 shall be deemed repealed effective January 1, 2013,~~

6. **Attendance via videoconference shall be limited to two (2) non-consecutive instances per calendar year,**

and moves its adoption.

FIRST READING: November 27, 2012

SECOND READING: December 4, 2012

ADOPTED AS AMENDED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 19 NOES: 2
(Noes: Legislators Bartels and Gerentine)
(Absent: Legislators Harris and Maio)

