

Official position of the House Republican Caucus regarding policies and procedures in place to prevent the spread of Covid-19

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ga. Const. Art. III, Sec. IV, Para. 1, Members of the General Assembly of Georgia “shall meet in regular session on the second Monday in January of each year, or otherwise as provided by law”...; and

WHEREAS, in order to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of members, staff, employees, and their families, the Speaker has mandated the use of surveillance testing by all members of the House and House staff in an effort to slow the spread of SARS-CoV-2; and

WHEREAS, the surveillance testing program adopted by the House is conducted using a saliva-based PCR test, otherwise known as a Molecular test. Such tests are minimally invasive and have been proven to be among the most accurate testing methods currently available for detection of both symptomatic and asymptomatic case of SARS-CoV-2; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Rule 4 of the 2021-2022 Rules of the Georgia House of Representatives, “The Speaker may appoint a sergeant-at-arms for the House whose primary duties shall be to maintain order in the House chamber, the gallery, and the anterooms, lobbies, and halls adjacent to the House. As directed by the Speaker, any member or members of the Uniform Division or Executive Security Guard Division of the Department of Public Safety permanently assigned to special duty or personal security duty with the Speaker shall have full authority to maintain order in the House chamber, the gallery, and the anterooms, lobbies, and halls adjacent to the House and to exercise any other authority granted to the sergeant-at-arms under these Rules, in cooperation with the officers and employees of the House and any other law enforcement personnel so empowered by the Speaker; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Rule 8.3 of the 2021-2022 Rules of the Georgia House of Representatives, “The Speaker shall have the power to cause the gallery and lobbies of the House to be cleared by the messenger, sergeant-at-arms, doorkeepers, or any member or members of the Uniform Division or Executive Security Guard Division of the Department of Public Safety permanently assigned to special duty in the House in case of a disturbance or disorderly conduct therein. The Speaker shall have the power to cause any person so offending to be arrested and brought before the bar of the House in order to be dealt with for contempt of the House; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to Paragraph Ten of the House Republican Caucus Rules it is the official position of the House Republican Caucus that all members shall submit to the testing program conducted semi-weekly. Further, in instances where a member(s) has failed or refused to submit to the mandated testing, the Speaker shall be authorized to expel that member(s) from the chamber, committee meeting rooms, and designated office space until further notice is given by the Speaker.

Adopted in Atlanta, Georgia, on Wednesday, January 27, 2021.