

**RESOLUTION NO. 319**

**CREATING A SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RULES REVIEW AND LEGISLATIVE MODERNIZATION**

Introduced: 9/13/21

By Messrs. A. Joyce, Feeney, Mss. Willingham, Lekakis, Messrs. Kuhn, Perlee, Grimm and Miller:

WHEREAS, Since March of 2020, the Albany County Legislature, as well as the world, has been forced to adapt to a changing landscape when it comes to the organization of its meetings, and

WHEREAS, While the Albany County Legislature succeeded in its adjustment to remote meetings during the Governor's Emergency Declaration and temporary suspension of certain provisions of the Open Meetings Law, the body never formally modified its rules to comply with the new landscape, and

WHEREAS, On September 1, 2021, the State Legislature passed a temporary suspension of certain provisions of the Open Meetings lasting until January 15, 2022, and

WHEREAS, The Rules of the Legislature should be amended to address the ability to hold remote meetings consistent with state law, and

WHEREAS, The Albany County Legislature has adopted measures and committed resources towards the modernization of our processes, improving communication between legislative staff and county departments, reducing the amount of paper being used, and

WHEREAS, A Special Committee should be impaneled to evaluate and make recommendations to this Honorable Body concerning the numerous issues involved in handling meetings in a remote setting, and how the Rules of Legislative Order should be amended to account for the recent modernization of our processes, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By This Honorable Body that a Special Rules Review and Legislative Modernization Committee is created to evaluate and make recommendations regarding all aspects of our modernization efforts and establish policies consistent with State law related to remote meetings, and be it further

RESOLVED, That said Committee shall consist of nine members, and the Chairperson of the County Legislature shall fill such appointments from the membership of the Legislature as recommended by the Majority and Minority leaders, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the County Legislature is hereby directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the appropriate County officials.

*Referred to Law Committee – 9/13/21*

*Favorable Recommendation Law Committee – 9/29/21*

*Adopted by unanimous vote – 10/12/21*