

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 26

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN

HOUSE/RULES: Provides relative to use of personal electronic devices and decorum in the House Chamber and committee rooms

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To amend and readopt House Rule 5.1 of the Rules of Order of the House of Representatives  
3 and to repeal House Rule 1.3 of the Rules of Order of the House of Representatives  
4 to provide relative to the use of personal electronic devices and decorum in the  
5 House Chamber and committee rooms.

6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana  
7 that House Rule 5.1 of the Rules of Order of the House of Representatives is hereby  
8 amended and readopted to read as follows:

9 Rule 5.1. ~~Decorous language~~ Decorum

10 A. Every ~~member person~~ shall confine himself to civil and decorous  
11 language and behavior in when addressing the House or any committee thereof.

12 B.(1) The use of personal electronic devices within the House Chamber and  
13 within a committee room when a legislative body is convened therein shall be  
14 limited and not used in a disruptive manner. Any such device shall be muted in the  
15 House Chamber or a committee room when a legislative body is convened therein.

16 (2) The provisions of Subparagraph (1) of this Paragraph shall not apply to  
17 the Sergeant at Arms, assistant sergeants at arms, capitol security officers, or first  
18 responders when on duty.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Legislature  
20 of Louisiana that House Rule 1.3 of the Rules of Order of the House of Representatives is  
21 hereby repealed.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HR 26 Original

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Freeman

**Abstract:** Requires a person to use civil and decorous language and behavior when addressing the House or any committee thereof and provides that the use of personal electronic devices within the House Chamber and in committee rooms when a legislative body is convened therein shall be limited and not used in a disruptive manner.

Present House Rule (HR 1.3) prohibits a person from operating an audible wireless telephone or audible pager in the House Chamber during a joint session of the legislature. Proposed House Rule repeals this rule.

Present House Rule (HR 5.1) requires every member to confine himself to decorous language in addressing the House or any committee thereof.

Proposed House Rule provides instead that every person shall confine himself to civil and decorous language and behavior when addressing the House or any committee thereof. Proposed House Rule further provides that the use of personal electronic devices within the House Chamber or within a committee room when a legislative body is convened therein shall be limited and not used in a disruptive manner. Requires that the audible tones on any such devices shall be muted at all times when a legislative body is convened. Provides an exception for on-duty sgt. at arms, security officers, and first responders.

(Amends HR 5.1; Repeals HR 1.3)