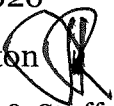


House of Representatives

DAVID RALSTON
SPEAKER

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Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020
From: Speaker David Ralston 
To: All House Members & Staff
RE: Update on Resuming the 2020 Legislative Session

I wanted to provide you with an update on our work to resume the 2020 legislative session.

I want to again thank Majority Leader Burns, Minority Leader Trammell and the members and staff working with them to craft policies and procedures to keep everyone safe upon our return.

To date, this group has had preliminary discussions and consultations with applicable state agencies including the Georgia Building Authority, the Georgia Department of Public Health and others on best practices. As you can imagine, the nature of the legislative session which, by design, is meant to bring together hundreds of people from across the state under one roof to craft legislation and debate policy poses some unique challenges with regard to preventing the spread of the virus.

As they continue to work through these challenges and comply with applicable public health directives, we will now plan to transition staff back to their offices on Monday, June 1. In-person committee meetings may now resume on Tuesday, June 2. The 2020 legislative session will resume on Thursday, June 11.

Virtual committee meetings are ongoing and may continue at the discretion of the committee chairmen. Bear in mind voting on legislation, whether the meeting is virtual or in-person, may not take place until the legislative session officially resumes. However, committees may continue to hear testimony on legislation and discuss policy issues.

Attached you will find the report from the Committee on Reopening containing Georgia Building Authority safety procedures and the Committee's recommended safety guidelines for employees returning to work on site. I support these recommendations and will ensure that sound policies and procedures are put into place in order to protect members, staff and public participants in the legislative process. The committee will continue its work and we will provide more information regarding safety protocols for session floor proceedings and in-person committee meetings closer to the June start date.

I appreciate your patience and flexibility as we deal with this evolving public health situation. We look forward to returning to the State Capitol and moving forward with the people's business as soon as possible.