

The main concerns are separation of powers (maintaining the legislative branch's autonomy and rules) and providing for the historical record.

### **The Alaska Constitution**

Article II, Section 12, in part: "Each (body) shall keep a journal of its proceedings."

This requires access to BASIS and the Legislature's network. Any location outside the Capitol must rely on whatever internet and security capabilities are available unless enough time and money is provided to augment the existing system in the temporary location.

### **Alaska Statute**

The journal requirement is repeated in AS 24.05.130, in part: "Each house shall keep and publish a daily journal of its proceedings."

AS 24.05.135(a) states: "All floor sessions of each house shall be electronically recorded. However, each house may suspend this recording requirement by concurrence of two-thirds of its members when there is an equipment failure or when no recording equipment is available as a result of a natural disaster or other exigency."

Experience from the 2015 special session illustrated the difficulty in ensuring an adequate electronic recording when outside the Capitol.

### **Uniform Rules**

Rule 3. Legislative Session Staff. (c) "The sergeant-at-arms shall maintain order on the floor of the chamber and in the galleries and adjoining hallway, and assure that any person not permitted by law or legislative rule to be present in the chamber is removed from the chamber. The sergeant-at-arms shall assure that a member does not leave the chamber during a call of the house, and shall act to secure the attendance in the chamber of members missing during a call of the house."

Having chambers in a gymnasium would make it difficult for the sergeant-at-arms to maintain order in the gallery, hallway and floor and secure the multiple entrance points.

Rule 9. Journal. In part: "The daily journal is prepared by the chief clerk or secretary...and distributed to each member of the legislature on the following legislative day."

The rule to distribute the daily journal to each member by the following day would be difficult to comply with depending on the workspace provided and the infrastructure issues mentioned above.

Rule 11. Admission to Floor. (a) Except as provided in (b)-(d) of this rule, a person who is not a member of the house is not permitted on the floor of the house chamber while the house is sitting or in brief recess...”

The proposed setting of the gymnasium would make this rule difficult to enforce, especially given the fact that there will be limited floor staff. There is no natural barrier and temporary barriers may be ineffective and would need to be closely monitored.

Rule 12. Use of Chambers and Offices. “Legislative chambers are to be used only for the official business of the legislature during legislative sessions. During the session access to the chambers and their galleries is under the control of the presiding officer of the house to which the space is assigned...”

Again, having chambers in the gym would make compliance difficult as it is unknown if the gyms can be secure and, since the Governor’s Office may have the administrative space in the school, it is not a guarantee that only the presiding officer will have control of the space.