

HOUSE No. 2019

Order (filed by Mr. DeLeo of Winthrop) relative to the adoption of permanent Joint Rules for the 190th General Court governing the 2017-2018 legislative sessions (House, No. 2019). February 2, 2017.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

1 *Ordered*, That, the joint rules of the Senate and House of Representatives for the 190th
2 General Court for the 2017-2018 legislative sessions be adopted, as follows:

3 ***Committees.***

4 1. Joint standing committees shall be appointed at the beginning of the biennial session as
5 follows:-

- 6 A committee on Children, Families and Persons With Disabilities;
- 7 A committee on Community Development and Small Businesses;
- 8 A committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure;
- 9 A committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies;

- 10 A committee on Education;
- 11 A committee on Elder Affairs;
- 12 A committee on Election Laws;
- 13 A committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture;
- 14 A committee on Financial Services;
- 15 A committee on Health Care Financing;
- 16 A committee on Higher Education;
- 17 A committee on Housing;
- 18 A committee on Export Development;
- 19 A committee on the Judiciary;
- 20 A committee on Labor and Workforce Development;
- 21 A committee on Marijuana Policy;
- 22 A committee on Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Recovery;
- 23 A committee on Municipalities and Regional Government;
- 24 A committee on Public Health;
- 25 A committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security;
- 26 A committee on Public Service;

27 A committee on Revenue;

28 A committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight;

29 A committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy;

30 A committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development;

31 A committee on Transportation;

32 A committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs

33 Each to consist of 6 members of the Senate, and 11 on the part of the House except the

34 committees on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies, Health Care Financing and

35 Transportation which shall consist of 7 members of the Senate and 13 of the House.

36 Within 4 weeks of the appointment of joint standing committees in the first annual session of the

37 General Court, each joint standing committee shall adopt rules of procedure regarding its

38 conduct. Said rules of procedure, together with any amendments, shall be filed with the Clerk of

39 the Senate and the Clerk of the House and shall be available to the public and members of the

40 General Court on the official website for the General Court.

41 Except as provided by Joint Rule 1E, each matter shall be referred only to 1 joint committee for

42 consideration and all reports of matters by joint committees shall be made to the House or the

43 Senate, under Joint Rule 4, not to another joint committee. The committee to which a matter is

44 initially referred may discharge the matter to another committee with jurisdiction over the matter.

45 Matters referred by either the Senate or the House to its committee on Ways and Means shall be

46 considered by the respective committees of the 2 branches, acting as a joint committee, when, in

47 the judgment of the chairmen of the respective committees of the 2 branches, the interests of
48 legislation or the expedition of business will be better served by such joint consideration. Matters
49 may also be referred to the committees on Ways and Means, of the 2 branches, as a joint
50 committee.

51 The committees on Rules, together with the presiding officers of the 2 branches, acting
52 concurrently, may consider and suggest such measures as shall, in their judgment, tend to
53 facilitate the business of the session and a majority vote of the 2 branches shall be required to
54 approve such recommendations.

55 In order to assist the House and the Senate in their: (1) consideration and enactment of new
56 legislation and modifications of existing laws, when either are deemed to be appropriate; (2)
57 evaluation of the effectiveness and administration of laws and programs previously enacted; and
58 (3) appraisal of the conditions and circumstances which may indicate the desirability of enacting
59 new legislation, the various joint committees shall have the following oversight responsibilities:

60 (i) each joint committee shall review and study, on a continuing basis, the implementation,
61 administration, execution and effectiveness of those laws, or parts of law, the subject matter of
62 which is within the jurisdiction of that committee, the administrative regulations adopted to
63 implement those laws, and those state agencies or entities having responsibilities for the
64 administration and execution of such laws;

65 (ii) in carrying out these review and study activities, each committee shall determine whether
66 such laws, administrative regulations and programs under those laws are being implemented in
67 accordance with the intent of the General Court and whether such laws, administrative
68 regulations and programs should be continued, curtailed or eliminated;

69 (iii) each committee shall also review and study any conditions and circumstances which may
70 indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new legislation within the jurisdiction of that
71 committee, regardless of whether any matter has been introduced on that subject, and shall, on a
72 continuing basis, undertake research on matters within the jurisdiction of that committee.

73 Committees shall coordinate oversight activities, under the direction of the presiding officers of
74 both branches, to achieve the maximum objectives of clauses (i), (ii) and (iii).

75 Each committee may, upon completion of its oversight hearings, report to the General Court the
76 results of its findings and recommendations together with accompanying corrective legislation, if
77 any, by filing the same with the Clerk of the House of Representatives or the Clerk of the Senate.

78 Copies of such reports shall be, whenever practicable, made available to all members
79 electronically and to the public via the Internet. The disposition of said reports shall be
80 determined by the Clerks with the approval of the Speaker and the President.

81 The Senate and House chairmen of a joint committee may appoint subcommittees to investigate
82 and study any matter referred to said subcommittee. Any subcommittee so established shall be
83 co-chaired by a majority member of the Senate and a majority member of the House who are
84 members of the joint standing committee appointing the subcommittee. The composition of the
85 subcommittee shall be proportional to the composition of the appointing joint committee;
86 provided, however, that not less than 10 per cent of the subcommittee's members shall be from
87 the minority party. Chairmen of subcommittees shall not be considered chairmen under section 2
88 of chapter 3 of the acts of 2005. A subcommittee may, upon completion of an investigation and
89 study, report the results of the investigation and study together with legislation, if any, by filing
90 the same with the Senate and House chairmen of the appointing joint committee.

91 Temporary employees of the General Court assigned to a joint committee who are students at an
92 accredited education institution or employees or grantees of other non-profit organizations under
93 section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code may receive compensation from such institution
94 or organization, according to that institution or organization's regular program of providing such
95 compensation for temporary governmental or public service employment. Such temporary
96 employee's Senate or House supervisor shall establish the employee's total compensation, shall
97 verify that the sum of the employee's compensation from the General Court, if any, and any
98 outside compensation the employee is to receive under this rule would not exceed this total
99 compensation, and shall file the written terms of the employee's compensation with the Senate or
100 House Human Resources Office, where it shall be available for public inspection. Such
101 temporary employee shall sign a confidentiality and ethics agreement provided by the Senate
102 Personnel Office or House Human Resources Office. [Amended Jan. 6, 18 82; Jan. 5, 18 83; Jan.
103 7, 18 84; Jan. 8 and 26, 1885; Jan. 8, 18 86; Jan. 12, 18 87; Jan. 9, 18 88; Jan. 28, 18 89; Jan. 8,
104 18 90; Feb. 2, 18 91; Jan. 11 and Feb. 10, 18 92; Feb. 7, 18 93; Jan. 8. 1894; Jan. 7, 18 95; Jan. 7,
105 18 96; Jan. 11, 18 97; Jan. 10, 18 98; Jan. 9, 18 99; Jan. 22 and 29, 1901; Jan. 6, 19 02; Jan. 9, 19
106 03; Jan. 8, 19 04; Jan. 6, 19 05; Jan. 4, 19 07; Jan. 5, 19 10; Jan. 4, 19 11; Jan. 1, 19 13; Jan. 12,
107 19 14; Jan. 2, 19 18; Jan. 1 and 8 and Feb. 21, 1919; Jan. 7, 19 20; Jan. 5, 19 21; April 17 and 30,
108 1925; Jan. 5, 19 27; Jan. 7, 19 31; Jan. 6, 19 37; Jan. 4, 19 39; Jan. 1, 19 41; Jan. 3, 19 45; Jan. 2,
109 19 46; Jan. 6, 19 47; Feb. 1, 19 49; Jan. 7, 19 53; Jan. 7, 19 59; Jan. 30, 19 61; Jan. 7, 19 63; Jan.
110 12, 19 65; Feb. 24, 19 65; Mar. 10, 19 66; Jan. 30, 19 67; Jan. 7, 1971 ; July 23, 1974 ; Sept. 30
111 and Oct. 12, 1976 ; Nov. 3, 1981 ; Dec. 21, 1981 ; Mar. 15, 1982 ; Oct. 3, 1983 ; June 3, 1985 ;
112 Jan. 25 and Mar. 14, 1988 ; Mar. 27, 1995 , June 12, 1995 ; July 17, 2003 ; Jan. 26, 2005; July 21
113 and September 20, 2005; Feb. 20, 2007; Feb 12, 2009.]

114 1A. All meetings of joint committees acting concurrently, Senate and House standing
115 committees, special committees of the Senate and House of Representatives, and joint special
116 committees and committees of conference on the disagreeing votes of the 2 branches shall be
117 open to the public, unless a majority shall vote otherwise. [Adopted July 17, 1973. Amended
118 July 18, 1974; Feb. 12, 2009.]

119 1B. A joint standing committee shall hold a public hearing on each matter referred to it in each
120 legislative session. [Adopted June 3, 1985; Amended Feb. 12, 2009.]

121 1C. All joint standing committees shall schedule committee hearings and executive sessions so
122 as not to conflict, to the extent feasible, with the schedules of other committees and, to the extent
123 feasible, the day of the week and times during that day set aside for formal sessions by the
124 respective branches from the first Wednesday in January through the fourth Wednesday of April
125 in the first annual session. [Adopted June 3, 1985; Amended June 12, 1995.]

126 1D. All meetings of joint standing committees, and special joint committees of the Senate and
127 House of Representatives, shall be open to the public, and any person shall be permitted to attend
128 any such meeting unless such committee convenes in executive session, as provided herein. All
129 joint standing committees shall determine a schedule for committee hearings to be held from the
130 beginning of the first annual session through the fourth Wednesday in June in said session. These
131 committee schedules shall be submitted to the Clerk of the House who shall cause them to be
132 published on the official website for the General Court. Establishment of such schedules shall
133 not preclude joint standing committees from scheduling additional hearings or meetings as
134 needed. No executive session shall be held except upon extraordinary circumstances and only
135 after the committee has first convened in an open session for which notice has been given, the

136 presiding officer has stated the purpose of the executive session, a majority of the committee
137 members present has voted to go into executive session, the vote of each member has been
138 recorded on a roll call vote, and the presiding officer has stated before the executive session if
139 the committee will reconvene after the executive session. The records of all such roll calls shall
140 be kept in the offices of the committee for the duration of the General Court during which said
141 vote was recorded, and shall be available for public inspection upon reasonable notice and during
142 regular office hours.

143 All joint standing committees, and special joint committees of the Senate and House of
144 Representatives, shall notify the Sergeant-at-Arms of the time, place and agenda of all public
145 hearings and executive sessions not less than 48 hours prior to the time of such meetings. The
146 Sergeant-at-Arms shall notify the clerk, who shall inform all members electronically and publish
147 such information on the official website of the General Court whenever practicable.

148 Nothing contained in this rule shall prohibit a joint standing committee or special joint
149 committee of the Senate and the House of Representatives from taking appropriate action
150 including, but not limited to, the exclusion of a person from a committee meeting in order to
151 prevent the disruption of or interference with committee proceedings. All meetings of joint
152 standing committees, and special joint committees of the Senate and House of Representatives,
153 shall be limited to no more than 50 bills to be discussed in a hearing, unless it can be determined
154 that all of the bills being considered are of the same subject matter.

155 The 48 hour requirement shall be suspended in an emergency only after all reasonable efforts
156 have been made to contact all committee members and upon a recorded vote of at least a

157 majority of the members of each branch appointed to the committee, but not less than two-thirds
158 of the members of each branch voting.

159 A meeting of a committee may be recorded by a person in attendance by means of a recorder or
160 any other means of audio/visual reproduction except when a meeting is held in executive session;
161 provided, that a person seeking to record a meeting of a committee notifies the Chairs of the
162 committee prior to commencing such recording; and provided further that during such recording
163 there is no interference with the conduct of the meeting.

164 The Chairs of each committee shall preserve decorum and order during each committee hearing.
165 Persons attending hearings shall be required to refrain from the use of cellular telephones,
166 beepers and pagers. The use of visual aids including, without limitation, posters, displays, or
167 charts shall be permitted only upon approval of the Chairs. [Adopted June 3, 1985. Amended
168 June 12, 1995; Feb. 20, 2007; Mar. 14, 2013.]

169 1E. The joint standing committee on Health Care Financing shall review all legislation relating
170 to health care to evaluate the appropriateness and fiscal effect of such legislation. A matter
171 within the jurisdiction of said committee may, if appropriate, initially be referred to another joint
172 standing committee sharing jurisdiction of the subject-matter. Any matter reported favorably by
173 such joint standing committee shall be referred to the joint committee on Health Care Financing;
174 provided, however, that notwithstanding any rule to the contrary, any such matter so reported
175 shall not be read a first time in the branch in which the report was received. The next favorable
176 report on any such matter, if made by a joint committee, may be made to either branch. Such
177 next favorable report shall be considered the first reading. The branch of origin for any such bill
178 so reported shall be the branch receiving such favorable report.

179 For all matters initially referred to the joint committee on Health Care Financing and not
180 previously referred to another joint committee, the joint committee on Health Care Financing
181 may make favorable reports to either branch, at the discretion of the committee, except that
182 reports on money bills shall be made to the House.

183 In compliance with section 38A of chapter 3 of the General Laws, the joint committee on Health
184 Care Financing when reporting on bills shall include a fiscal note prepared under section 3A of
185 chapter 29 of the General Laws, showing the estimated cost or the fiscal effect of the proposed
186 legislation, if, in the opinion of said committee, such cost or fiscal effect exceeds the sum of
187 \$100,000; provided, however, that any matter reported by the committee on Health Care
188 Financing with a fiscal effect of less than \$100,000 shall not be referred, under the rules, to the
189 committee on Ways and Means.[Adopted Jan. 26, 2005; Amended May 19, 2005; Feb. 20, 2007;
190 Feb. 12, 2009.]

191 1F. [Omitted February 12, 2009].

192 1G. The President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Minority Leader
193 of the Senate, Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the Senate and House chairmen
194 and the Senate and House ranking minority members of the joint committee on Public Safety and
195 Homeland Security may receive security clearance from federal and state homeland security
196 officials in order to be granted access to confidential homeland security briefings, information
197 and materials. The President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the
198 Senate and House committee chairmen and the Senate and House ranking minority members
199 may designate 1 or more members of their staff who may receive such security clearance.

200 Any person who receives security clearance under this rule shall sign all confidentiality
201 agreements required by homeland security officials. The breach of any such confidentiality
202 agreement shall constitute a violation of the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of
203 Representatives. Any alleged violation of a confidentiality agreement shall be referred for
204 investigation to the Senate committee on Ethics and Rules or the House committee on Ethics,
205 respectively, and, if appropriate, to law enforcement authorities for potential criminal
206 prosecution. [Adopted Jan. 26, 2005; Amended Feb. 12, 2009.]

207 2. No member of either branch shall act as counsel for any party before any committee of the
208 Legislature.

209 2A. No member of either branch shall purchase, directly or indirectly, the stock or other
210 securities of any corporation or association knowing that there is pending before the General
211 Court any measure specially granting to such corporation or association any immunity,
212 exemption, privilege or benefit or any measure providing for the creation of, or directly affecting
213 any, contractual relations between such corporation or association and the Commonwealth. This
214 rule shall not apply to the purchase of securities issued by the Commonwealth or any political
215 subdivision of the Commonwealth. [See G.L. chapter 268, section 10.] [Adopted Jan. 16, 1922.]

216 3. When the General Court is in session, authorization for any committee of the Senate or House
217 of Representatives to travel during the session of the General Court shall be approved by a vote
218 of two-thirds of the members of its branch present and voting. When the General Court is in
219 session, authorization for any committee of the Senate or House of Representatives to sit and
220 travel during the recess of the General Court shall be approved by a vote of two-thirds of the
221 members of each branch present and voting. During the recess of the General Court, the

222 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives may, by written consent,
223 allow standing committees of their respective branches or appoint special committees to sit,
224 travel and incur expenses not exceeding sums authorized in writing by said presiding officers and
225 appropriated for such purposes. When the General Court is in session, authorization for any joint
226 committee to travel during the session, or to sit or travel during the recess, of the General Court
227 shall be approved by a vote of two-thirds of the members of each branch present and voting.

228 During the recess of the General Court, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House
229 of Representatives, acting jointly, may, by written consent, allow joint committees or appoint
230 joint special committees to sit, travel and incur expenses not exceeding sums authorized in
231 writing by said presiding officers and appropriated for such purposes. The Clerks of the Senate
232 and House of Representatives shall be notified of any appointments made and authorizations
233 granted during the recess for said committees to sit, travel and incur expenses during the recess
234 and the Clerks shall enter such information in the journals for the next year, as soon as may be
235 practicable. Committees authorized by the presiding officers to sit during the recess in the odd
236 numbered year shall report not later than the fourth Wednesday of January during the following
237 year and committees authorized by the presiding officers to sit during the recess in the even
238 numbered year shall report not later than the fourth Wednesday of December during the same
239 year.

240 No committee shall travel except at the expense of the Commonwealth. In any case when a
241 committee is authorized to travel, the Sergeant-at-Arms shall provide transportation only for
242 members of the committee and the officer accompanying them, and the reasonable traveling
243 expenses of such members and officers only shall be charged to or paid by the Commonwealth.
244 Neither the Sergeant-at-Arms nor the officer detailed by the Sergeant-at-Arms shall permit any

245 person to accompany such committee while in the discharge of its official duties unless invited
246 by vote of the committee.

247 All bills for the traveling expenses of committees shall be submitted by the Sergeant-at-Arms to
248 the committee by whom they have been incurred and shall be approved by a majority of said
249 committee before being presented to the Comptroller for payment. [Adopted Feb. 7, 1890;
250 Amended Feb. 2, 1891 ; Jan. 20, 1904 ; April 17, 1925 ; March 2, 1943 ; July 27, 1950 ; Oct. 18,
251 1971 ; March 28, 1972 ; Jan. 15, 1973; Feb. 12, 2009.]

252 3A. A joint standing committee may, upon the written and signed report of two-thirds of the
253 members of the Senate and two-thirds of the members of the House appointed to said committee,
254 report a bill or other form of legislation without said legislation being founded upon petition;
255 provided, however, that matters so reported shall be germane to the subject matters regularly
256 referred to the committee. The committee shall hold a public hearing on such bill or other form
257 of legislation before it is reported. A bill or other form of legislation so reported shall be placed
258 in the Orders of the Day by the Clerk of the respective branch to which it is reported or referred
259 to a standing committee of said branch under the rules. All reports of committees not founded
260 upon petition shall bear the designation ‘committee bill’, ‘resolve’, ‘order’ or ‘resolution’, as
261 the case may be, in the Orders of the Day. Committees to which messages from the Governor,
262 reports of state officers, boards, committees, commissions and others authorized to report to the
263 General Court, may report by bill or otherwise such legislation as may be germane to the subject
264 matter referred to them. [Adopted June 3, 1985 .]

265 4. Favorable reports, and adverse reports on subjects of legislation other than petitions, by joint
266 committees shall be made to the branch in which the matter was originally introduced, unless a

267 committee decided otherwise under its own rules and, except that reports on money bills shall be
268 made to the House and if adverse reports on matters other than petitions which are accompanied
269 by money bills are accepted by the House, this shall constitute final rejection. Adverse reports by
270 joint committees on petitions shall be made to the branch in which the petition was originally
271 introduced, except that such adverse reports on petitions accompanied by proposed money bills
272 shall be made to the House; and, if accepted by the branch in which they are made, shall be
273 considered as a final rejection. When a report is made from any committee to either branch, and
274 the subject-matter of the report is subsequently referred to a joint committee, such committee,
275 except for the committee on Health Care Financing, shall report its action to the branch in which
276 the reference originated. [See also Joint Rule 5.]

277 A vote of a joint standing committee to give legislation a favorable or adverse report shall be
278 conducted by a roll call upon request of 2 committee members present at the committee meeting.
279 Such votes shall be recorded on appropriate forms that show all votes for and against the
280 particular committee action. The records of all such roll calls shall be kept in the offices of the
281 committee for the duration of the General Court during which said vote was recorded, and shall
282 be available for public inspection upon reasonable notice and during regular office hours.

283 All committee members shall have an opportunity to sign a form accompanying a report of the
284 committee signifying approval of, dissent or abstention from a report of a joint standing
285 committee before the report is final or filed. No signature shall be valid unless the report to
286 which the signature is affixed includes the substantially complete text of the legislation being
287 reported. [Amended Jan. 3, 1952; April 8, 1959; June 7, 1965; Jan. 7, 1971; March 11, 1974;
288 June 3, 1985; Feb. 20, 2007.]

289 4A. In compliance with section 38A of chapter 3 of the General Laws, all joint committees of the
290 General Court when reporting on bills referred to them shall include a fiscal note prepared under
291 section 3A of chapter 29 of the General Laws, showing the estimated cost or the fiscal effect of
292 the proposed legislation, if, in the opinion of said committee, such cost exceeds \$100,000. Such
293 fiscal note shall be filed electronically in the office of the clerk to which the report is being
294 made, and shall be promptly made available on the official website of the General Court.

295 [Adopted Jan. 15, 1973.]

296 5. Matters reported adversely by joint committees and the committees on Rules of the two
297 branches, acting concurrently, may be recommitted to the same committees at the pleasure of the
298 branch acting on the report, and bills or resolves may be recommitted in either branch. If a bill or
299 resolve is laid aside in either branch for the reason that it is declared to be broader in its scope
300 than the subject-matter upon which it is based, the subject-matter shall be recommitted to the
301 committee. A concurrent vote shall, however, be necessary for recommitment, with instructions.
302 After recommitment, report shall, in all cases, be made to the branch originating the
303 recommitment. [Amended Feb. 2, 1891; April 11, 1935; Jan. 6, 1947; May 7, 19 53; March 26,
304 1963; Jan. 30, 1967; Jan. 7, 1971; March 11, 1974.]

305 6. Bills and resolves reported by joint committees shall be presented with spaces between the
306 several sections and shall be made available to all members electronically and to the public via
307 the Internet. [Amended Jan. 28, 1889; Jan. 9, 1941; Feb. 8, 1949; Feb. 12, 2009.]

308 ***Joint Petitions.***

309 6A. A member of the Senate and a member of the House of Representatives may file a joint
310 petition in either branch and shall endorse their name on the petition and a brief statement of the

311 nature and object of the instrument and the reading of the instrument shall be dispensed with,
312 unless specially ordered. The petition shall be filed in the office of the clerk of either the Senate
313 or House of Representatives, depending on whether it is a 'Joint Senate/House Petition' or a
314 'Joint House/Senate Petition' but the Journal records in the Senate and House of Representatives
315 shall carry both members' names as presenters of the petition. [Adopted Jan. 15, 1973.]

316 7. Whenever, upon any application for an act of incorporation or other legislation, the purpose
317 for which such legislation is sought can be secured without detriment to the public interests by a
318 general law or under existing laws, the committee to which the matter is referred shall report
319 such general law, or 'ought not to pass'. [Amended Feb. 2, 1891; Feb. 7, 18 93; Jan. 7, 1971.]

320 7A. A petition for legislation to authorize a county to reinstate in its service a person formerly
321 employed by it, or to retire or pension or grant an annuity to any person, or to increase any
322 retirement allowance, pension or annuity, or to pay any sum of money in the nature of a pension
323 or retirement allowance, or to pay any salary which would have accrued to a deceased official or
324 employee but for his death, or to pay any claim for damages or otherwise, or to alter the benefits
325 or change the restrictions of any county retirement or pension law, shall, subsequently to the
326 procedure required by Senate Rule No. 20 and by House Rule No. 24, be reported adversely,
327 unless, when filed it be the petition of, or be approved by, a majority of the county
328 commissioners. [Adopted April 29, 1915. Amended Jan. 13, Feb. 19 and Dec. 22, 1920; May 24,
329 1926; April 11, 1935; April 22, 1937; Jan. 12, 1939; Jan. 15, 1945; Feb. 20, 1951; Jan. 30, 1967;
330 Jan. 7, 1971; Jan. 15, 1973.]

331 7B. A petition, the operation of which is restricted to a particular city or town (and which does
332 not affect the powers, duties, etc., of state departments, boards, commissions, etc., or which does

333 not affect generally the laws of the Commonwealth) and which is not filed in conformity with
334 Section 8 of Article LXXXIX of the Amendments to the Constitution shall, subsequent to the
335 procedure required by Senate Rule 20 and House Rule 24, be reported adversely, unless it be on
336 petition filed or approved by the voters of a city or town, or the mayor and city council, or other
337 legislative body, of a city, or the town meeting of a town. A joint committee to which is
338 inadvertently referred a petition or other subject of legislation the operation of which is restricted
339 to a particular city or town and which is not in conformity with Section 8 of Article LXXXIX of
340 the Amendments to the Constitution shall report a general law which applies alike to all cities, or
341 to all towns, or to all cities and towns, or to a class of not fewer than 2; or shall report ‘ought not
342 to pass’, with the further endorsement that it ‘would be unconstitutional to enact such special
343 law’.

344 Any petition that subsequently conforms to Section 8 of Article LXXXIX of the Amendments to
345 the Constitution after filing, which have followed the procedures set forth in Senate Rule 20 or
346 House Rule 24, shall be forthwith reported from the committee on Rules and be referred by the
347 Clerk to an appropriate committee.[Adopted Jan. 13, 1920. Amended Feb. 19 and Dec. 22, 1920;
348 May 24, 1926; April 11, 1935; April 22, 1937; Jan. 12, 1939; Jan. 9, 1941; Jan. 15, 1945; Feb.
349 20, 1951; Jan. 30, 1967; Jan. 7 and Mar. 22, 1971 ; Jan. 15, 1973; March 14, 2013.]

350 7C. The approval vote required to file a petition, the operation of which is restricted to a
351 particular city or town under Section 8 of Article LXXXIX of the Amendments to the
352 Constitution of the Commonwealth, shall not expire prior to the final day of the next immediate
353 biennial session in which the petition was filed and no additional vote shall be required to file a
354 petition unless a vote to rescind such approval is passed by the voters of a city or town, or the

355 mayor and city council or other legislative body of a city, or the board of selectmen and the town
356 meeting or other legislative body of the town. [Adopted, Mar. 14, 2013.]

357 7D. The approval of a substantive amendment to a petition restricted to a single city or town and
358 requiring a vote of the city or town before enactment of the petition shall be provided to the
359 General Court before the enactment of the petition and shall be reviewed by House Counsel and
360 Senate Counsel prior to the enactment of the petition in either branch.

361 *Notice to Parties Interested.*

362 8. No legislation affecting the rights of individuals or the rights of a private or municipal
363 corporation, otherwise than as it affects generally the people of the Commonwealth or the
364 people of the city or town to which it specifically applies, shall be proposed or introduced except
365 by a petition, nor shall any bill or resolve embodying such legislation be reported by a committee
366 except upon a petition duly referred, nor shall such a bill or resolve be reported by a committee,
367 whether on an original reference or on a recommittal with instructions to hear the parties, until it
368 is made to appear to the satisfaction of the committee that proper notice of the proposed
369 legislation has been given by public advertisement or otherwise to all parties interested, without
370 expense to the Commonwealth, or until evidence satisfactory to the committee is produced that
371 all parties interested have in writing waived notice. A committee reporting adversely due to lack
372 proper notice or of a waiver of proper notice shall so state in its report and no bill or resolve shall
373 be in order as a substitute for, or amendment of, such report. Objection to the violation of this
374 rule may be taken at any stage prior to that of the third reading. [Adopted Feb. 7, 1890. Amended
375 Dec. 22, 1920 ; Jan. 12, 1939 ; Jan. 15, 1945; Jan. 7, 1971 .]

376 9. A petition for the incorporation of a city or town, for the annexation of 1 municipality to
377 another, for the consolidation of 2 or more municipalities or for the division of an existing
378 municipality, or for the incorporation or revival of a railroad, street railway, elevated railroad,
379 canal, telephone, telegraph, water, gas, electric light, power or other public service corporation,
380 for the amendment, alteration or extension of the charter or corporate powers or privileges, or for
381 the change of name, of any such company, whether specially incorporated or organized under the
382 General Laws, or for authority to take water for a water supply, or relative to building structures
383 in or over navigable or tide waters, shall be placed on file, and not referred to a committee,
384 unless the petitioner has given the notice and followed the procedure required by section 5 of
385 chapter 3 of the General Laws. But if, no objection being raised, any such petition is referred to a
386 committee without such required notice or procedure, the committee shall forthwith report
387 adversely, setting forth as the reason for such report failure to comply with the law, unless
388 evidence satisfactory to the committee is produced that all parties interested have in writing
389 waived notice. In case a bill or resolve is reported upon such a petition, after proof of such
390 waiver of notice, this fact shall be set forth in the report of the committee. When an adverse
391 report is made by a committee, on account of failure to give the required notice, no bill or resolve
392 shall be substituted for such report, nor shall such report be recommitted or referred to another
393 committee.

394 A petition for the establishment or revival, or for the amendment, alteration or extension of the
395 charter or corporate powers or privileges, or for the change of name, of any corporation, except a
396 petition subject to the preceding paragraph, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the branch in
397 which it is filed to the office of the State Secretary. If such a petition is returned by said
398 Secretary with a statement that the petitioner has failed to comply with the requirements of

399 section 7 of chapter 3 of the General Laws, said petition shall be placed on file, and shall not be
400 referred to a committee.

401 Any petition placed on file for want of proper notice or procedure under this rule shall not affect
402 action upon any other measure involving the same subject matter. [Adopted Feb. 7, 1890.

403 Amended Feb. 2, 1891; Feb. 3, 1898; Jan. 16, 1903; Feb. 19 and Dec. 22, 1920; May 24, 1926;
404 Feb. 27, 1929; April 11, 1935; Jan. 6, 1938; Jan. 12, 1939; Jan. 9, 1941; Jan. 15, 1945; April 8,
405 1959; Jan. 7, 1963; Jan. 7, 1971 ; Jan. 15, 1973 , June 12, 1995; Feb. 12, 2009.]

406 ***Limit of Time allowed for Reports of Committees.***

407 10. All joint committees and the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently,
408 shall make final report not later than the first Wednesday of February of the second annual
409 session of the General Court on all matters referred to them before the first day of the second
410 annual session and within 30 days on all matters referred to them on and after the first day of the
411 second annual session of the General Court except that the committee on Health Care Financing
412 shall make final report not later than the last Wednesday of March of the second annual session
413 on all matters referred to them on or before the fourth Wednesday of February and within 30
414 days on all matters referred to it after the fourth Wednesday in February of the second annual
415 session of the General Court. When the time within which said committees are required to report
416 has expired, all matters upon which no report has then been made shall forthwith be reported by
417 the chairman of the committee on the part of the branch in which they were respectively
418 introduced, with an adverse recommendation under this rule. If the chairman fails to make such
419 report by the end of the legislative day next following the expiration date, all matters remaining
420 unreported shall be placed in the Orders of the Day by the Clerk of the branch in which the

421 matter was originally filed with an adverse report under this rule. Matters which have been
422 referred under Joint Rule 29, upon which the chairmen of the committees on Rules fail to make a
423 report, shall be placed by the respective Clerks in the Orders of the Day of the branch in which
424 the subject matter was referred to said committees. Committees to whom are referred subjects of
425 legislation may combine petitions of similar subject matter, or other forms of legislation of
426 similar subject matter, into 1 adverse report, and the report on the petition shall be that said
427 petitions or other forms of legislation ‘ought NOT to pass,’ and if the report is accepted, all the
428 matters contained in the report shall be disposed of. However, petitions upon which an adverse
429 report is accepted in only 1 branch may not be combined with other subjects of legislation upon
430 which adverse reports must be accepted, in concurrence. This rule shall not apply to petitions
431 referred to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, under the second
432 paragraph of Joint Rule 12. This rule shall not be rescinded, amended or suspended, except by a
433 concurrent vote of four-fifths of the members of each branch present and voting thereon.
434 Notwithstanding Joint Rule 30, this rule shall not be rescinded, amended or suspended more than
435 3 times except by unanimous consent. [Amended Feb. 2, 1891; Jan. 25, 1894; Jan. 16, 1903; Jan.
436 20, 1904; Dec. 22, 1920; April 17, 1925; Jan. 12, 1939; Jan. 15, 1945; Jan. 6, 1947; May 7, 1953;
437 Jan. 27, 1955; Jan. 30, 1967; Jan. 7, 1971; Feb. 4, 1974, June 12, 1995; July 17, 2003; Feb. 20,
438 2007; Feb. 12, 2009.]

439 10A. The form for all subjects of legislation receiving a favorable report shall be ‘ought to pass.’
440 The form for all subjects of legislation receiving an adverse report shall be ‘ought NOT to pass.’
441 A committee to whom is referred any other matter may report recommending that the same be
442 placed on file. [Adopted Jan. 7, 1971.]

443 *Committees of Conference.*

444 11. Committees of conference shall consist of 3 members on the part of each branch,
445 representing its vote; and their report, if agreed to by a majority of each committee, shall be
446 made to the branch asking for the conference, and may be either accepted or rejected, but no
447 other action shall be had, except through a new committee of conference.

448 No committee on conference shall be appointed after July 17 of the second annual session of the
449 General Court.

450 Committees of conference to whom are referred matters of difference in respect to bills or
451 resolves, shall, after filing their reports, but before consideration by either branch, have the same
452 approved or discharged by each committee on Bills in the Third Reading [Amended April 22,
453 1937; Feb. 12, 2009; Feb. 3, 2011.]

454 11A. Committees of conference to whom are referred matters of difference in respect to
455 appropriation bills, including capital outlay programs, shall, after filing their reports but before
456 consideration by either branch have the same approved or discharged by each committee on Bills
457 in the Third Reading.

458 Upon the appointment of a committee of conference to whom matters of difference in respect to
459 any appropriation bill or in respect to any bill providing for capital outlay programs and projects
460 are referred, the clerk of the branch requesting said committee of conference shall make
461 available to members of the General Court a list of the matters in disagreement identified by item
462 number and item purpose and showing the amount made available by each branch of the General
463 Court, and any other matters in disagreement and the position of each of the said branches.

464 The report of said committee of conference shall consist of the matters of difference so referred
465 and so identified, showing the amounts appropriated by each of the said branches and other

466 matters in disagreement and the position of each branch with respect to those matters, and shall
467 state said committee's recommendations with respect to the matters so referred. Matters on which
468 there exists no disagreement between the branches shall not be disturbed by the committee on
469 conference.

470 The committees on ways and means of each branch of the General Court shall assist such
471 committee of conference in any and all matters necessary to the preparation and completion of its
472 report. [Adopted July 30, 1974; Amended Oct. 3, 1983; Feb. 3, 2011.]

473 11B. No report from a committee of conference shall be considered or acted upon by either
474 branch until the calendar day following the day on which said report shall have been available to
475 the public and to the members of the General Court. The committee shall file its report no later
476 than 8 p.m. on the day preceding its consideration and the General Court shall not consider said
477 report before 1 p.m. on the following day, except that a report from such committee of
478 conference that it is unable to agree may be considered and acted upon at the time that such
479 report is filed. [Adopted Oct. 3, 1983. Amended July 17, 2003; July 21 and September 20, 2005;
480 Feb. 3, 2011.]

481 11C. Reports, other than those filed under Rule 11A, from a committee of conference shall,
482 whenever practicable, be accompanied by a summary which shall be filed with the clerk.
483 [Adopted Feb. 12, 2009; Feb. 3, 2011.]

484 11D. Upon the filing of a report by a committee of conference the clerk of the branch in which
485 the committee of conference filed its report shall make the report and the summary of the report
486 available to all members electronically and to the public on the official website of the General
487 Court by 9 p.m. on the day preceding its consideration. [Adopted Feb. 12, 2009; Feb. 3, 2011.]

488 11E. Subsequent to the filing of a report of a committee of conference, an addendum may be
489 submitted to the clerk of the branch in which the report had been filed. The addendum shall
490 indicate that it contains only matters inadvertently omitted from or included in the report, and
491 shall be signed by all of members of the House and Senate who had signed the conference
492 committee report. The addendum shall be approved by both the Counsel to the House and the
493 Counsel to the Senate. The addendum, having been approved by both the Counsel to the House
494 and the Counsel to the Senate, shall be posted to the official website of the General Court
495 immediately upon receipt by the clerk of the branch to which it was submitted. [Adopted Mar.
496 14, 2013.]

497 ***Limit of Time allowed for New Business.***

498 12. Resolutions intended for adoption by both branches of the General Court, petitions, and all
499 other subjects of legislation, shall be deposited with the Clerk of either branch prior to 5 p.m. on
500 the third Friday in January of the first annual session of the General Court.

501 All such matters except messages from the Governor, reports required or authorized to be made
502 to the General Court and petitions filed or approved by the voters of a city or town, or the mayor
503 and city council, or other legislative body of a city, or the town meeting of a town, for the
504 enactment of a special law under Section 8 of Article LXXXIX of the Amendments to the
505 Constitution and which do not affect the powers, duties, etc., of state departments, boards,
506 commissions, etc., or which do not affect generally the laws of the Commonwealth deposited
507 with the respective clerks subsequent to 5 p.m. on the third Friday of January of the first annual
508 session of the General Court shall be referred by the Clerks to the committees on the Rules of the
509 two branches, acting concurrently. No such matter shall be admitted for consideration except on

510 report of the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, and then upon
511 approval of two-thirds of the members of each branch voting thereon. Matters upon which
512 suspension of Joint Rule 12 has been negatived shall be placed on file.

513 At any special session called under Rule 26A, however, matters relating to the facts constituting
514 the necessity for convening such session shall, if otherwise admissible, be admitted as though
515 filed seasonably under the first sentence of this rule. Any recommendations from the Governor
516 shall be similarly considered. This rule shall not be rescinded, amended or suspended, except by
517 a concurrent vote of two-thirds of the members of each branch present and voting thereon.

518 [Amended Feb. 7, 18 90; Feb. 2, 18 91; Feb. 7, 18 93; Jan. 10, 18 98; Jan. 9, 18 99; Feb. 15, 19
519 01; May 4, 19 04; Jan. 31, 19 10; Feb. 2, 19 17; Dec. 22, 19 20; March 30, 19 21; Jan. 30, 19 23;
520 Feb. 15, 19 33; Jan. 12 and Aug. 7, 19 39; Jan. 15, 19 45; Jan. 6, 19 47; May 27, 19 48; Jan. 30,
521 19 67; March 26, 19 69; Jan. 7, 1971 ; Jan. 15 and Oct. 2, 1973 ; Oct 3, 1983 , June 12, 1995 ;
522 Jan. 26, 2005; July 17, 2003; Jan. 26, 2005; July 21, 2005; Sept. 20, 2005; Feb. 12, 2009.]

523 12A. All formal business of the first annual session of the General Court shall be concluded not
524 later than the third Wednesday in November of that calendar year and all formal business of the
525 second annual session shall be concluded not later than the last day of July of that calendar year.

526 In order to assist the Senate and House in its analysis and appraisal of laws enacted by the
527 General Court, each joint standing committee, upon conclusion of the formal business of the
528 annual sessions, shall, as authorized by Joint Rule 1, initiate oversight hearings to evaluate the
529 effectiveness, application and administration of the subject matter of laws within the jurisdiction
530 of that committee. [Adopted June 12, 1995.]

531 ***Unfinished Business of the Session.***

532 12B. Any matter pending before the General Court at the end of the first annual session and any
533 special session held in the same year shall carry over into the second annual session of the same
534 General Court in the same legislative status as it was at the conclusion of the first annual session
535 or any special session held during that year; provided, however, that any measure making or
536 supplementing an appropriation for a fiscal year submitted to or returned to the General Court by
537 the Governor, under Article LXIII of the Amendments to the Constitution, in the first annual
538 session or in a special session held during that year shall cease to exist upon the termination of
539 the first annual session. [Adopted June 12, 1995.]

540 Papers to be deposited with the Clerks.

541 13. Information intended for presentation to the General Court by any Representative or Senator
542 shall be deposited with the Clerk of the branch to which the member belongs; and all such
543 information, unless they be subject to other rules or of the rules of the Senate or House, shall be
544 referred by the Clerk, with the approval of the President or Speaker, to appropriate committees,
545 subject to such changes as the Senate or House may make. The reading of information so
546 referred may be dispensed with, but they shall, except as provided in these rules, be entered in
547 the Journal of the same on the next legislative day after such reference.

548 A member may include a brief statement of intent with all papers intended for presentation to the
549 General Court. Upon a favorable report by a joint standing committee, a committee may include
550 a brief written statement of intent. Said statement shall be dated and shall include the scope of
551 the matter presented for consideration; provided, however, this rule shall not be construed to
552 require the presentation of such statement of intent under this rule. [Adopted Feb. 7, 1890.]

553 Amended Feb. 2, 1891; Feb. 7, 1893; Jan. 25, 1894; Dec. 22, 1920; May 25, 1923; Feb. 15,
554 1933; Jan. 12, 1971; June 3, 1985; Feb. 12, 2009.]

555 *Dockets of Legislative Counsel and Agents.*

556 14. The committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, may prescribe the manner
557 and form of keeping the dockets of legislative agents which are required by law. [Adopted Feb.
558 2, 1891; Amended Feb. 19, 1920.]

559 *Duties of the Clerk.*

560 15. If any part of the report of a committee over the signature of the chairman or members of the
561 committee is amended in either branch, the Clerk of that branch shall endorse upon the report
562 such amendment.

563 16. All papers, while on their passage between the 2 branches, may be under the signature of the
564 respective Clerks, except as to the adopting of emergency preambles and the final passage of
565 bills and resolves. Messages may be sent by such persons as each branch may direct. [Amended
566 Feb. 21, 1919.]

567 17. After bills and resolves have passed both branches to be engrossed, they shall be in the
568 charge of the Clerks of the 2 branches, who shall prepare the same for final passage in the
569 manner prescribed by law; and when so prepared the same shall be delivered to the Clerk of the
570 House of Representatives; and when the bills have been passed to be enacted or the resolves have
571 been passed in the House, they shall, in like manner, be delivered to the Senate Clerk and
572 Parliamentarian. If a bill or resolve contains an emergency preamble, it shall be delivered in like
573 manner, to the Senate after the preamble has been adopted by the House of Representatives and

574 before the bill or resolve is put upon its final passage in that branch. If the Senate concurs in
575 adopting the preamble, the bill or resolve shall be returned to the House to be there first put upon
576 its final passage, under Joint Rule No. 22. [Amended Feb. 24, 1914; Feb. 21, 1919; Jan. 7, 1971.]

577 18. [Omitted in 1971.]

578 19. The Clerk of the branch in which a bill or resolve originated shall make an endorsement on
579 the envelope of the engrossed copy of the bill, certifying in which branch the bill originated,
580 which endorsement shall be entered on the journals by the Clerks respectively. [Amended Jan.
581 28, 1889; Feb. 24, 1914.]

582 20. Bills, resolves and other papers requiring the approval of the Governor shall be laid before
583 the Governor for the Governor's approbation by the Senate Clerk and Parliamentarian, who shall
584 enter upon the journal of the Senate the day and date on which the same were so laid before the
585 Governor. [Amended Jan. 28, 1889; Jan. 7, 1971.]

586 ***Presentation and Distribution of Documents.***

587 21. The committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, may establish regulations
588 for the distribution of bills, reports or other documents. Bills, reports or other documents shall be
589 made available to members electronically and, except for petitions or other documents not
590 assigned bill numbers, published on the Internet. The committees on Rules of the two branches,
591 acting concurrently, may make such changes pertaining to the availability of bills, reports or
592 other documents as they deem necessary for expediting the work of the legislature.

593 The Clerks of the House of Representatives and the Senate shall be responsible for publishing
594 the journals of their respective chamber, the book Public Officers of Massachusetts, the

595 committee book and any other publications per order of the committees on Rules. [Amended Jan.
596 8, 1886 ; Jan. 28, 1889 ; Jan. 27, 1911 ; Feb. 19, 1920 ; Jan. 6, 1947 ; Apr. 5, 19 67 ; Jan. 7,
597 1971; Feb. 12, 2009; Mar. 14, 2013.]

598 *Emergency Measures.*

599 22. The vote on the preamble of an emergency law, which under the requirements of Article
600 XLVIII, as amended by Article LXVII of the Amendments of the Constitution shall, upon
601 request of 2 members of the Senate or of 5 members of the House of Representatives, be taken
602 by call of the yeas and nays, shall be had after the proposed law has been prepared for final
603 passage; and neither branch shall vote on the enactment of a bill or on the passage of a resolve
604 containing an emergency preamble until it has been determined whether the preamble shall
605 remain or be eliminated. If the bill contains an emergency preamble, a motion to amend the bill
606 may be received in either branch before the adoption of the emergency preamble, and the
607 amendment may contain a new emergency preamble. If the 2 branches concur in adopting the
608 preamble, the bill or resolve shall first be put upon its final passage in the House of
609 Representatives. If either branch fails to adopt the preamble, notice of its action shall be sent to
610 the other branch; and the bill or resolve, duly endorsed, shall again be prepared for final passage
611 without the preamble and without any provision that the bill or the resolve shall take effect
612 earlier than 90 days after it has become law. Procedure shall be otherwise under the joint rules
613 and the rules of the Senate and the House of Representatives. [Adopted Feb. 21, 1919. Amended
614 Jan. 30, 1923; Jan. 7, 1971; Feb. 20, 2007; Feb. 12, 2009.]

615 22A. Bills and resolves passed to be engrossed by both branches and before being transmitted by
616 the clerks to the Legislative Engrossing Division shall be made available to the committees on

617 Bills in the Third Reading of the two branches, acting jointly, who shall examine them to ensure
618 accuracy in the text; that the legislation is correct as to form; that references to previous
619 amendments to any particular law are correct and to ensure proper consistency with the language
620 of existing statutes. These committees, with the approval of the majority and minority leadership
621 of both branches may make corrections which are not substantive in nature. The clerks of both
622 branches shall be immediately notified, in writing, of any such changes. Errors discovered by the
623 committees of a substantive nature shall be reported to the General Court, which in turn shall
624 take appropriate action under its rules. Upon completion of examination and possible correction
625 of any such bills and resolves, the bills and resolves shall be returned to the clerks, who in turn,
626 shall transmit them to the Legislative Engrossing Division to be prepared for final passage.

627 [Adopted Sept. 16, 1971.]

628 *Legislative Amendments to the Constitution.*

629 23. All proposals for amendments to the Constitution referred to a joint committee on the first
630 annual session of the General Court shall be reported by said committee not later than the last
631 Wednesday of April in said year, and proposals for amendments to the Constitution referred to a
632 joint committee subsequent to the last Wednesday in April of the first annual session shall be
633 reported by said committee not later than the last Wednesday of April in the second session of
634 the same General Court. The committee shall file its report, either recommending that the
635 proposal ought to pass or ought not to pass, with any official papers in its possession that relate
636 thereto, with the Clerk of the Senate. When the time within which said committees are required
637 to report has expired, all matters upon which no report has been made shall forthwith be placed
638 in the Journal of the respective branches, with an adverse report under this rule; and shall then be
639 placed on file in the office of the Clerk of the Senate. For further information of the members of

640 the Senate and House of Representatives, the respective Clerks shall also place all such matters
641 under a separate heading in the Calendar of each branch, as soon as is practicable. In each branch
642 the report shall be read and forthwith placed on file; and no further legislative action shall be
643 taken on the measure unless consideration in joint session is called for by vote of either branch,
644 under Section 2 of Part IV of Article XLVIII (as amended by Article LXXXI) of the
645 Amendments to the Constitution. A joint committee to which is referred any recommendation for
646 an amendment to the Constitution made by the Governor or contained in a report authorized to
647 be made to the General Court may report on the recommendation a proposal for a legislative
648 amendment, which shall be deemed to have been introduced by the member of the Senate who
649 reports for the committee; and the procedure as regards reporting, filing and subsequent action
650 shall be that provided for legislative amendments by this rule. Or the joint committee may report
651 ought not to pass for the reason that no legislation is necessary or that the recommendation ought
652 not to pass; and in such cases the usual procedure as regards similar reports by joint committees
653 shall be followed. If such an adverse report is amended in the Senate by substituting a proposal
654 for a legislative amendment, notice of the Senate's action shall be sent to the House and said
655 proposal, together with the official papers relating to the subject, shall be in the custody of the
656 Clerk of the Senate; and if said report is so amended in the House, the proposal, duly endorsed,
657 together with the other papers, shall be sent to the Senate for its information and shall be kept in
658 the custody of its Clerk. No further legislative action shall be taken in either branch on a proposal
659 so substituted unless consideration in joint session is called for under the Constitution. If either
660 branch calls for the consideration of any proposal in joint session, notice of its action shall be
661 sent to the other branch; and it shall then be the duty of the Senate and the House of
662 Representatives to arrange for the holding of the joint session not later than the second

663 Wednesday in May. Subject to the requirements of the Constitution, joint sessions or
664 continuances of joint sessions of the 2 branches to consider proposals for specific amendments to
665 the Constitution, and all rules or procedures, shall be determined only by concurrent votes of the
666 2 branches. The rules relative to joint conventions shall apply to the joint sessions of the 2
667 houses. [Adopted Feb. 21, 1919. Amended March 30, 1921; April 11, 1935; Jan. 12, 1939; Jan.
668 15, 1945; Nov. 9, 1951; Jan. 15, 1973; July 1, 1974; Feb. 12, 2009.]

669 ***Executive Reorganization Plans.***

670 23A. Any reorganization plan, accompanied by a bill, submitted by the Governor under Article
671 LXXXVII of the Amendments to the Constitution shall be referred by the Clerks of the Senate
672 and the House, with the approval of the President and Speaker, to a joint standing committee
673 within 5 days of the presentation of the reorganization plan.

674 Said committee, to which is referred any such reorganization plan, shall, as required by said
675 Article, not later than 30 days after the presentation of such plan by the Governor, hold a public
676 hearing on the reorganization plan; and shall not later than 10 days after such hearing report that
677 it either approves or disapproves such plan.

678 When recommending action, the committee shall make, in each branch, a separate report of its
679 recommendations, and shall file said report together with the committee's recommendations and
680 the reasons for those recommendations, in writing. Majority and minority reports shall be signed
681 by the members of said committee. Any official papers in the possession of said committee that
682 relate thereto shall be filed with the Clerk of the Senate.

683 If the committee recommends favorable action, the report shall be that the reorganization plan
684 'ought to be approved'. If the committee recommends adverse action, the report shall be that the

685 reorganization plan 'ought NOT to be approved'. In each instance, the question shall be 'Shall
686 this reorganization plan be approved?'

687 In each branch, the report shall be read and forthwith recorded in the Journal. On the legislative
688 day next following the Journal record, the report shall be placed in the Orders of the Day of the
689 Senate and the House.

690 When the time within which a joint committee is required to report on a reorganization plan has
691 expired, a matter upon which no report has been made shall forthwith be placed in the Orders of
692 the Day by the Clerks of each branch and the question shall be 'Shall this reorganization plan be
693 approved?'

694 When such plan is before either branch, no motion relating to said plan shall be allowed except
695 the motions to lay on the table (only in the Senate), to postpone to a time certain, or to commit or
696 recommit (at the pleasure of either branch). The motions to take a recess, to adjourn, the previous
697 question (if provided in the branch debating the issue), to close debate at a specified time, and
698 the motion to reconsider shall also be in order.

699 A motion to discharge any committee to which is referred or to which is recommitted a
700 reorganization plan shall not be in order prior to the expiration of 40 days after the Governor's
701 presentation of such plan. After the expiration of said 40 days, a motion to discharge a committee
702 shall be decided by a majority vote of the branch in which the motion is made.

703 Unless disapproved by a majority vote of the members of either of the 2 branches of the General
704 Court present and voting, the General Court not having prorogued within 60 days from the date
705 of presentation by the Governor, the plan shall be approved and shall take effect as provided by
706 Article LXXXVII of the Amendments to the Constitution.

707 Within 7 days of the expiration of the 60 days from the date of presentation of said plan by the
708 Governor, unless the question has already been decided, the Clerks of the Senate and House of
709 Representatives shall place the plan in the Orders of the Day; and no motions except the motions
710 to take a recess, to adjourn, and previous question, or to close debate at a specified time, shall be
711 in order.

712 No such reorganization plan presented to the General Court shall be subject to change or
713 amendment before expiration of such 60 days. [Adopted June 13, 1967; Amended March 27,
714 1969; June 12, 1995; Feb. 12, 2009.]

715 ***Joint Conventions.***

716 24. The President of the Senate shall preside in Conventions of the 2 branches, and such
717 Conventions shall be held in the Representatives' Chamber; the Senate Clerk and Parliamentarian
718 shall be the Clerk of the Convention, and a record of the proceedings of the Convention shall be
719 entered at large on the journals of both branches. [Amended Feb. 20, 2007.]

720 25. When an agreement has been made by the 2 branches to go into Convention, such agreement
721 shall not be altered or annulled, except by concurrent vote, excepting that it shall be in order to
722 recess the convention from time to time upon a majority vote of said convention. [Amended Jan.
723 7, 1971 .]

724 26. No business shall be entered on, in Convention, other than that which may be agreed on
725 before the Convention is formed.

726 ***Special Sessions.***

727 26A. If written statements of 21 members of the Senate and 81 members of the House of
728 Representatives, that in their opinion it is necessary that the General Court assemble in special
729 session on a particular date and time specified in their statements during a recess of the General
730 Court, are filed with their respective Clerks, such Clerks shall forthwith notify all the members
731 of their respective branches to assemble at the State House in Boston, on said date at the time so
732 specified. When so assembled, the first business to be taken up shall be the question of the
733 necessity of so assembling, under Article I of Section I of Chapter I of Part the Second of the
734 Constitution of the Commonwealth. If 21 members of the Senate and 81 members of the House
735 of Representatives judge by vote taken by call of the yeas and nays that such assembling of the
736 General Court is necessary, specifying in such vote the facts constituting such necessity, the
737 General Court shall then complete its organization as a special session, proceed to the
738 consideration of the suspension of Joint Rule 12A which if suspended by the required two-thirds
739 of the members of both branches shall permit the General Court to proceed to the consideration
740 of matters properly before it. Nothing in this rule shall prevent the General Court from
741 assembling in any other constitutional manner when it judges necessary. [Adopted Aug. 7, 1939.
742 Amended March 2, 1943; March 27, 19 69; May 5, 1979; July 17, 2003; July 21 and September
743 20, 2005.]

744 ***Joint Elections.***

745 27. In all elections by joint ballot a time shall be assigned for such election at least 1 day
746 previous to such election.

747 27A. In all cases of elections by ballot a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary for a
748 choice, and where there shall be no such a majority on the first ballot the ballots shall be repeated

749 until a majority is obtained; and in balloting, blanks shall be rejected and not taken into the count
750 in the enumeration of votes, excepting that when the number of blanks shall be more than the
751 number of votes received by the candidate having the highest number of votes, then the election
752 shall be declared void and the balloting shall be repeated as provided herein. [Adopted March 27,
753 1969 .]

754 28. [Omitted March 28, 1972 .]

755 ***References to the Committees on Rules.***

756 29. All motions and orders authorizing joint committees to travel or to employ stenographers, or
757 authorizing joint committees or special commissions composed as a whole or in part of members
758 of the General Court to make investigations or to file special reports, all propositions reported by
759 joint committees which authorize investigations or special reports by joint committees or by
760 special commissions composed as a whole or in part of members of the General Court, all
761 motions or orders proposed for joint adoption which provide that information be transmitted to
762 the General Court, and all matters referred under the second paragraph of Joint Rule 12, shall be
763 referred without debate to the committees on Rules of the two branches acting concurrently, who
764 shall report on the matter, under Joint Rule 10. All matters which have been referred under this
765 rule shall, in each instance, be reported back into the branch making such reference. [Adopted
766 Jan. 10, 1898. Amended Jan. 20, 1904; Jan. 28, 1913; Feb. 19 and Dec. 22, 1920; April 11, 1935;
767 April 22, 1937; Jan. 27, 1955; Jan. 30, 1967; Oct. 18, 1971.]

768 29A. Meetings of any special commission, special legislative commission, task force or other
769 group authorized or required by statute, resolve, rule, or order to make or conduct an
770 investigation or study of any issue shall be conducted openly and transparently. Meetings of any

771 special commission, special legislative commission, task force or other group authorized or
772 required by statute, resolve, rule, or order to make or conduct an investigation or study of any
773 issue and which are chaired by members of the general court shall be posted and conducted
774 pursuant to the rules of the senate and house of representatives and shall be conducted according
775 to the following requirements:

776 a.) Meetings shall be open to the public;

777 b.) Meetings shall be announced by appropriate notice at least 48 hours in advance;

778 c.) Any documents used in a meeting be provided to the public upon request in a manner to
779 be determined by the chair;

780 d.) Public testimony shall be accepted in a manner to be determined by the chair;

781 e.) The chair shall maintain a summary of the subjects discussed at each meeting, a list of
782 documents and other exhibits used at the meetings, and shall maintain a record of proceedings,
783 including a record of all votes. For the purposes of this rule a video or audio recording made
784 available to the public shall be considered an adequate record of the proceedings.

785 30. All motions or orders extending the time within which joint committees and the committees
786 on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, are required to report shall be referred without
787 debate to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, who shall report
788 recommending what action should be taken on the motion or order. Such extension shall be
789 granted by a concurrent majority vote if recommended by the committees on Rules of the two
790 branches, acting concurrently; but no such extension shall be granted, against the
791 recommendation of the committees, except by a four-fifths vote of the members of each branch

792 present and voting on the extension. This rule shall not be rescinded, amended or suspended,
793 except by a concurrent vote of four-fifths of the members of each branch present and voting
794 thereon. [Adopted Jan. 16, 1903. Amended Feb. 6, 1912; Feb. 19, 1920; Jan. 6, 1947; Jan. 27,
795 1955; June 7, 1965.]

796 *Members.*

797 31. A member of either branch who directly or indirectly solicits for such member or others any
798 position or office within the gift or control of a railroad corporation, street railway company, gas
799 or electric light company, telegraph or telephone company, aqueduct or water company, or other
800 public service corporation, shall be subject to suspension for such solicitation, or to such other
801 penalty as the branch of which the person is a member may see fit to impose. [See G. L. 271, sec.
802 40.] [Adopted May 22, 1902.]

803 *Accommodations for Reporters.*

804 32. Subject to the approval and direction of the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting
805 concurrently, during the session, and of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House
806 of Representatives after prorogation, the use of the rooms and facilities assigned to reporters in
807 the State House shall be under the control of the organizations of legislative reporters known as
808 the Massachusetts State House Press Association and the State House Broadcasters Association.
809 No person shall be permitted to use such rooms or facilities who is not entitled to the privileges
810 of the reporters' galleries of the Senate or of the House. Within 10 days after the General Court
811 convenes the Massachusetts State House Press Association and the State House Broadcasters
812 Association shall each transmit to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
813 Representatives and the Sergeant-at-Arms a list of the legislative reporters with the principal

814 publication or news service which each represents. [Adopted Jan. 27, 1911. Amended Feb. 24,
815 1914; Feb. 19, 1920; April 17, 1925; May 23, 1979; Feb. 12, 2009.]

816 ***Suspension of Rules.***

817 33. Any joint rule except Rule 10 and Rule 30 may be altered, suspended or rescinded by a
818 concurrent vote of two-thirds of the members of each branch present and voting thereon.
819 [Amended Feb. 7, 1893. Adopted in revised form Jan. 9, 1899. Amended Jan. 16, 1903; Jan. 26,
820 2005.]

821 ***Audit of Accounts.***

822 34. The committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, shall provide that an
823 outside independent audit of joint financial accounts be conducted by a certified public
824 accountant no less frequently than at the end of each second fiscal year. A copy of such audit
825 shall be filed with the Clerks of the Senate and House of Representatives and made available for
826 public inspection upon reasonable notice and during regular office hours. [Adopted May 30,
827 1985.]

828 35. The committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, shall reexamine the Joint
829 Rules of the House and Senate as needed, but at least every 4 years, and shall report to each
830 branch any recommendations it may have to facilitate the work of the respective branches and
831 the joint standing committees. [Adopted June 12, 1995.]

832 ***Procurement.***

833 36. (a) The House Business Manager and Chief Financial Officer of the Senate shall complete
834 the procurement of all goods and services from the joint legislative account. Procurements for

835 goods or services shall be made from the statewide procurement list established by the
836 operational services division, to the extent practicable, as determined by the House Business
837 Manager and the Chief Financial Officer of the Senate. If the Business Manager and the Chief
838 Financial Officer determine that a procurement cannot be made using the statewide procurement
839 list established by the operational services division, they may procure the required goods or
840 services under subsections (b), (c) or (d).

841 (b) Procurement of a supply or service from a vendor not on the statewide procurement list
842 valued at less than \$10,000 shall be made at the discretion of the House Business Manager and
843 the Chief Financial Officer of the Senate.

844 (c) If the House Business Manager and the Chief Financial Officer of the Senate seek to procure
845 a supply or service from a vendor not on the statewide procurement list valued at \$10,000 or
846 more, but less than \$100,000, they shall seek quotations from not fewer than 3 persons providing
847 such supply or service. The House Business Manager and the Chief Financial Officer of the
848 Senate shall record the names and addresses of all persons from whom quotations were received,
849 the names of the persons submitting quotations and the date and amount of each quotation. The
850 House Business Manager and the Chief Financial Officer of the Senate shall award the contract
851 to the responsible person whose quotation offers the needed quality of supply or service and
852 which represents the best value for the General Court.

853 (d) If the House Business Manager and the Chief Financial Officer of the Senate seek to procure
854 a supply or service from a vendor not on the statewide procurement list valued at \$100,000 or
855 more, the House Business Manager and the Chief Financial Officer of the Senate shall seek

856 proposals through a competitive bid process, which shall be established by the House Business
857 Manager and the Chief Financial Officer of the Senate.

858 (e) The House Business Manager and the Chief Financial Officer of the Senate shall maintain a
859 file on each procurement not executed using the statewide procurement list established by the
860 operational services division and in excess of \$10,000 and shall include in such file all
861 documents related to the procurement. The files maintained shall be available for inspection by
862 members of the General Court during regular business hours unless the information is otherwise
863 protected by state or federal law.

864 (f) Whenever the time required to comply with a requirement of this rule would endanger the
865 health, safety or convenience of the members, staff or visitors to the House of Representatives or
866 Senate the House and Senate Business Managers may make an emergency procurement without
867 satisfying the requirement of this rules; provided, however, that both the House and Senate
868 Business Managers certify in writing that: (i) an emergency exists and explain the nature thereof;
869 (ii) the emergency procurement is limited to only supplies or services necessary to meet the
870 emergency; (iii) shall conform to the requirements of rule to the extent practicable under the
871 circumstances; (iv) each contractor's name, (v) the amount and the type of each contract; (vi) the
872 supplies or services provided under each contract; (vii) and basis for determining the need for an
873 emergency procurement.

874 (g) In addition to the requirements of this rule, all procurements for legal services shall be
875 approved by the House and Senate Counsel.

876 (h) If, in the determination of the House Business Manager and the Chief Financial Officer of the
877 Senate, an emergency procurement of greater than \$10,000 is necessary, the House Business

878 Manager and the Chief Financial Officer of the Senate may procure the goods or services
879 immediately and create and maintain a file explaining the nature of the emergency and the goods
880 or services that were procured as a result. The House Business Manager and the Chief Financial
881 Officer of the Senate shall document the goods or services that were procured, the process used
882 to procure the goods or services, the vendors that were contacted and any other information
883 relevant to the procurement, and make that information available to members of the General
884 Court during regular business hours, unless the information is otherwise protected by state or
885 federal law. [Adopted Mar. 14, 2013.]