

- 10 A committee on Education;
- 11 A committee on Export Development;
- 12 A committee on Elder Affairs;
- 13 A committee on Election Laws;
- 14 A committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture;
- 15 A committee on Financial Services;
- 16 A committee on Health Care Financing;
- 17 A committee on Higher Education;
- 18 A committee on Housing;
- 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 Use 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; and

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, Public Safety and
35 Homeland Security, Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery, Health Care Financing and
36 Transportation which shall consist of 7 members of the Senate and 13 of the House.

37 Within 4 weeks of the appointment of joint standing committees in the first annual session of the
38 General Court, each joint standing committee shall adopt rules of procedure regarding its
39 conduct. Said rules of procedure, together with any amendments, shall be filed with the Clerk of
40 the Senate and the Clerk of the House and shall be available to the public and members of the
41 General Court on the official website for the General Court.

42 Except as provided by Joint Rule 1E, each matter shall be referred only to 1 joint committee for
43 consideration and all reports of matters by joint committees shall be made to the House or the
44 Senate, under Joint Rule 4, not to another joint committee. The committee to which a matter is
45 initially referred may discharge the matter to another committee with jurisdiction over the matter.

46 Matters referred by either the Senate or the House to its committee on Ways and Means shall be
47 considered by the respective committees of the 2 branches, acting as a joint committee, when, in
48 the judgment of the chairmen of the respective committees of the 2 branches, the interests of
49 legislation or the expedition of business will be better served by such joint consideration. Matters
50 may also be referred to the committees on Ways and Means, of the 2 branches, as a joint
51 committee.

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

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

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

66 (ii) in carrying out these review and study activities, each committee shall determine whether
67 such laws, administrative regulations and programs under those laws are being implemented in

68 accordance with the intent of the General Court and whether such laws, administrative
69 regulations and programs should be continued, curtailed or eliminated;

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

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

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

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

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

90 study, report the results of the investigation and study together with legislation, if any, by filing
91 the same with the Senate and House chairmen of the appointing joint committee.

92 Temporary employees of the general court assigned to a joint committee who are students at an
93 accredited education institution or employees or grantees of other non-profit organizations under
94 section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code may receive compensation from such
95 organization, according to that organization's regular program of providing such compensation
96 for temporary governmental or public service employment. A temporary employee's Senate or
97 House supervisor shall establish the employee's total compensation, shall verify that the sum of
98 the employee's state compensation, if any, and that any outside compensation the employee is to
99 receive under this rule would not exceed this total compensation, and shall file the written terms
100 of the employee's compensation with the Senate or House Human Resources Office, where it
101 shall be available for public inspection. The temporary employee shall sign a confidentiality and
102 ethics agreement provided by the Senate Personnel Office or House Human Resources Office.

103 [Amended Jan. 6, 18 82; Jan. 5, 18 83; Jan. 7, 18 84; Jan. 8 and 26, 1885; Jan. 8, 18 86; Jan. 12,
104 18 87; Jan. 9, 18 88; Jan. 28, 18 89; Jan. 8, 18 90; Feb. 2, 18 91; Jan. 11 and Feb. 10, 18 92; Feb.
105 7, 18 93; Jan. 8. 1894; Jan. 7, 18 95; Jan. 7, 18 96; Jan. 11, 18 97; Jan. 10, 18 98; Jan. 9, 18 99;
106 Jan. 22 and 29, 1901; Jan. 6, 19 02; Jan. 9, 19 03; Jan. 8, 19 04; Jan. 6, 19 05; Jan. 4, 19 07; Jan.
107 5, 19 10; Jan. 4, 19 11; Jan. 1, 19 13; Jan. 12, 19 14; Jan. 2, 19 18; Jan. 1 and 8 and Feb. 21,
108 1919; Jan. 7, 19 20; Jan. 5, 19 21; April 17 and 30, 1925; Jan. 5, 19 27; Jan. 7, 19 31; Jan. 6, 19
109 37; Jan. 4, 19 39; Jan. 1, 19 41; Jan. 3, 19 45; Jan. 2, 19 46; Jan. 6, 19 47; Feb. 1, 19 49; Jan. 7,
110 19 53; Jan. 7, 19 59; Jan. 30, 19 61; Jan. 7, 19 63; Jan. 12, 19 65; Feb. 24, 19 65; Mar. 10, 19 66;
111 Jan. 30, 19 67; Jan. 7, 1971 ; July 23, 1974 ; Sept. 30 and Oct. 12, 1976 ; Nov. 3, 1981 ; Dec. 21,
112 1981 ; Mar. 15, 1982 ; Oct. 3, 1983 ; June 3, 1985 ; Jan. 25 and Mar. 14, 1988 ; Mar. 27, 1995 ,

113 June 12, 1995 ; July 17, 2003 ; Jan. 26, 2005; July 21 and September 20, 2005; Feb. 20, 2007;
114 Feb 12, 2009.]

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

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

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

127 1D. All meetings of joint standing committees, and special joint committees of the Senate and
128 House of Representatives, shall be open to the public, and any person shall be permitted to attend
129 any such meeting unless such committee convenes in executive session, as provided herein. All
130 joint standing committees shall determine a schedule for committee hearings to be held from the
131 beginning of the first annual session through the fourth Wednesday in June in said session. These
132 committee schedules shall be submitted to the Clerk of the House who shall cause them to be
133 published on the official website for the General Court. Establishment of such schedules shall
134 not preclude joint standing committees from scheduling additional hearings or meetings as

135 needed. No executive session shall be held except upon extraordinary circumstances and only
136 after the committee has first convened in an open session for which notice has been given, the
137 presiding officer has stated the purpose of the executive session, a majority of the committee
138 members present has voted to go into executive session, the vote of each member has been
139 recorded on a roll call vote, and the presiding officer has stated before the executive session if
140 the committee will reconvene after the executive session. The records of all such roll calls shall
141 be kept in the offices of the committee for the duration of the General Court during which said
142 vote was recorded, and shall be available for public inspection upon reasonable notice and during
143 regular office hours.

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

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

156 The 48 hour requirement shall be suspended in an emergency only after all reasonable efforts
157 have been made to contact all committee members and upon a recorded vote of at least a
158 majority of the members of each branch appointed to the committee, but not less than two-thirds
159 of the members of each branch voting.

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

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

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

178 next favorable report shall be considered the first reading. The branch of origin for any such bill
179 so reported shall be the branch receiving such favorable report.

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

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

192 1F. [Omitted February 12, 2009].

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

199 Senate and House committee chairmen and the Senate and House ranking minority members
200 may designate 1 or more members of their staff who may receive such security clearance.

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

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

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

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

221 travel during the recess of the General Court shall be approved by a vote of two-thirds of the
222 members of each branch present and voting. During the recess of the General Court, the
223 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives may, by written consent,
224 allow standing committees of their respective branches or appoint special committees to sit,
225 travel and incur expenses not exceeding sums authorized in writing by said presiding officers and
226 appropriated for such purposes. When the General Court is in session, authorization for any joint
227 committee to travel during the session, or to sit or travel during the recess, of the General Court
228 shall be approved by a vote of two-thirds of the members of each branch present and voting.
229 During the recess of the General Court, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House
230 of Representatives, acting jointly, may, by written consent, allow joint committees or appoint
231 joint special committees to sit, travel and incur expenses not exceeding sums authorized in
232 writing by said presiding officers and appropriated for such purposes. The Clerks of the Senate
233 and House of Representatives shall be notified of any appointments made and authorizations
234 granted during the recess for said committees to sit, travel and incur expenses during the recess
235 and the Clerks shall enter such information in the journals for the next year, as soon as may be
236 practicable. Committees authorized by the presiding officers to sit during the recess in the odd
237 numbered year shall report not later than the fourth Wednesday of January during the following
238 year and committees authorized by the presiding officers to sit during the recess in the even
239 numbered year shall report not later than the fourth Wednesday of December during the same
240 year.

241 No committee shall travel except at the expense of the Commonwealth. In any case when a
242 committee is authorized to travel, the Sergeant-at-Arms shall provide transportation only for
243 members of the committee and the officer accompanying them, and the reasonable traveling

244 expenses of such members and officers only shall be charged to or paid by the Commonwealth.
245 Neither the Sergeant-at-Arms nor the officer detailed by the Sergeant-at-Arms shall permit any
246 person to accompany such committee while in the discharge of its official duties unless invited
247 by vote of the committee.

248 All bills for the traveling expenses of committees shall be submitted by the Sergeant-at-Arms to
249 the committee by whom they have been incurred and shall be approved by a majority of said
250 committee before being presented to the Comptroller for payment. [Adopted Feb. 7, 1890;
251 Amended Feb. 2, 1891 ; Jan. 20, 1904 ; April 17, 1925 ; March 2, 1943 ; July 27, 1950 ; Oct. 18,
252 1971 ; March 28, 1972 ; Jan. 15, 1973; Feb. 12, 2009.]

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

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

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

284 All committee members shall have an opportunity to sign a form accompanying a report of the
285 committee signifying approval of, dissent or abstention from a report of a joint standing
286 committee before the report is final or filed. No signature shall be valid unless the report to
287 which the signature is affixed includes the substantially complete text of the legislation being

288 reported. [Amended Jan. 3, 1952; April 8, 1959; June 7, 1965; Jan. 7, 1971; March 11, 1974;
289 June 3, 1985; Feb. 20, 2007.]

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

296 [Adopted Jan. 15, 1973.]

297 5. Matters reported adversely by joint committees and the committees on Rules of the two
298 branches, acting concurrently, may be recommitted to the same committees at the pleasure of the
299 branch acting on the report, and bills or resolves may be recommitted in either branch. If a bill or
300 resolve is laid aside in either branch for the reason that it is declared to be broader in its scope
301 than the subject-matter upon which it is based, the subject-matter shall be recommitted to the
302 committee. A concurrent vote shall, however, be necessary for re-committal, with instructions.
303 After recommitment, report shall, in all cases, be made to the branch originating the
304 recommitment. [Amended Feb. 2, 1891; April 11, 1935; Jan. 6, 1947; May 7, 19 53; March 26,
305 1963; Jan. 30, 1967; Jan. 7, 1971; March 11, 1974.]

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

309 ***Joint Petitions.***

310 6A. A member of the Senate and a member of the House of Representatives may file a joint
311 petition in either branch and shall endorse their name on the petition and a brief statement of the
312 nature and object of the instrument and the reading of the instrument shall be dispensed with,
313 unless specially ordered. The petition shall be filed in the office of the clerk of either the Senate
314 or House of Representatives, depending on whether it is a 'Joint Senate/House Petition' or a
315 'Joint House/Senate Petition' but the Journal records in the Senate and House of Representatives
316 shall carry both members' names as presenters of the petition. [Adopted Jan. 15, 1973.]

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

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

332 7B. A petition, the operation of which is restricted to a particular city or town (and which does
333 not affect the powers, duties, etc., of state departments, boards, commissions, etc., or which does
334 not affect generally the laws of the Commonwealth) and which is not filed in conformity with
335 Section 8 of Article LXXXIX of the Amendments to the Constitution shall, subsequent to the
336 procedure required by Senate Rule 20 and House Rule 24, be reported adversely, unless it be on
337 petition filed or approved by the voters of a city or town, or the mayor and city council, or other
338 legislative body, of a city, or the town meeting of a town. A joint committee to which is
339 inadvertently referred a petition or other subject of legislation the operation of which is restricted
340 to a particular city or town and which is not in conformity with Section 8 of Article LXXXIX of
341 the Amendments to the Constitution shall report a general law which applies alike to all cities, or
342 to all towns, or to all cities and towns, or to a class of not fewer than 2; or shall report 'ought not
343 to pass', with the further endorsement that it 'would be unconstitutional to enact such special
344 law'.

345 Any petition that subsequently conforms to Section 8 of Article LXXXIX of the Amendments to
346 the Constitution after filing, which have followed the procedures set forth in Senate Rule 20 or
347 House Rule 24, shall be forthwith reported from the committee on Rules and be referred by the
348 Clerk to an appropriate committee.[Adopted Jan. 13, 1920. Amended Feb. 19 and Dec. 22, 1920;
349 May 24, 1926; April 11, 1935; April 22, 1937; Jan. 12, 1939; Jan. 9, 1941; Jan. 15, 1945; Feb.
350 20, 1951; Jan. 30, 1967; Jan. 7 and Mar. 22, 1971 ; Jan. 15, 1973; March 14, 2013.]

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

355 petition unless a vote to rescind such approval is passed by the voters of a city or town, or the
356 mayor and city council or other legislative body of a city, or the board of selectmen and the town
357 meeting or other legislative body of the town. [Adopted, Mar. 14, 2013.]

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

362 *Notice to Parties Interested.*

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

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

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

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

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

404 Amended Feb. 2, 1891; Feb. 3, 1898; Jan. 16, 1903; Feb. 19 and Dec. 22, 1920; May 24, 1926;
405 Feb. 27, 1929; April 11, 1935; Jan. 6, 1938; Jan. 12, 1939; Jan. 9, 1941; Jan. 15, 1945; April 8,
406 1959; Jan. 7, 1963; Jan. 7, 1971 ; Jan. 15, 1973 , June 12, 1995; Feb. 12, 2009.]

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

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

422 matter was originally filed with an adverse report under this rule. Matters which have been
423 referred under Joint Rule 29, upon which the chairmen of the committees on Rules fail to make a
424 report, shall be placed by the respective Clerks in the Orders of the Day of the branch in which
425 the subject matter was referred to said committees. Committees to whom are referred subjects of
426 legislation may combine petitions of similar subject matter, or other forms of legislation of
427 similar subject matter, into 1 adverse report, and the report on the petition shall be that said
428 petitions or other forms of legislation ‘ought NOT to pass,’ and if the report is accepted, all the
429 matters contained in the report shall be disposed of. However, petitions upon which an adverse
430 report is accepted in only 1 branch may not be combined with other subjects of legislation upon
431 which adverse reports must be accepted, in concurrence. This rule shall not apply to petitions
432 referred to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, under the second
433 paragraph of Joint Rule 12. This rule shall not be rescinded, amended or suspended, except by a
434 concurrent vote of four-fifths of the members of each branch present and voting thereon.

435 Notwithstanding Joint Rule 30, this rule shall not be rescinded, amended or suspended more than
436 3 times except by unanimous consent. [Amended Feb. 2, 1891; Jan. 25, 1894; Jan. 16, 1903; Jan.
437 20, 1904; Dec. 22, 1920; April 17, 1925; Jan. 12, 1939; Jan. 15, 1945; Jan. 6, 1947; May 7, 1953;
438 Jan. 27, 1955; Jan. 30, 1967; Jan. 7, 1971; Feb. 4, 1974, June 12, 1995; July 17, 2003; Feb. 20,
439 2007; Feb. 12, 2009.]

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

444 *Committees of Conference.*

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

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

452 Committees of conference to whom are referred matters of difference in respect to bills or
453 resolves, shall, after filing their reports, but before consideration by either branch, have the same
454 approved or discharged by each committee on Bills in the Third Reading [Amended April 22,
455 1937; Feb. 12, 2009; Feb. 3, 2011.]

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

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

466 The report of said committee of conference shall consist of the matters of difference so referred
467 and so identified, showing the amounts appropriated by each of the said branches and other
468 matters in disagreement and the position of each branch with respect to those matters, and shall
469 state said committee's recommendations with respect to the matters so referred. Matters on which
470 there exists no disagreement between the branches shall not be disturbed by the committee on
471 conference.

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

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

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

486 11D. Upon the filing of a report by a committee of conference the clerk of the branch in which
487 the committee of conference filed its report shall make the report and the summary of the report

488 available to all members electronically and to the public on the official website of the General
489 Court by 9 p.m. on the day preceding its consideration. [Adopted Feb. 12, 2009; Feb. 3, 2011.]

490 11E. Subsequent to the filing of a report of a committee of conference, an addendum may be
491 submitted to the clerk of the branch in which the report had been filed. The addendum shall
492 indicate that it contains only matters inadvertently omitted from or included in the report, and
493 shall be signed by all of members of the House and Senate who had signed the conference
494 committee report. The addendum shall be approved by both the Counsel to the House and the
495 Counsel to the Senate. The addendum, having been approved by both the Counsel to the House
496 and the Counsel to the Senate, shall be posted to the official website of the General Court
497 immediately upon receipt by the clerk of the branch to which it was submitted. [Adopted Mar.
498 14, 2013.]

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

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

503 All such matters except messages from the Governor, reports required or authorized to be made
504 to the General Court and petitions filed or approved by the voters of a city or town, or the mayor
505 and city council, or other legislative body of a city, or the town meeting of a town, for the
506 enactment of a special law under Section 8 of Article LXXXIX of the Amendments to the
507 Constitution and which do not affect the powers, duties, etc., of state departments, boards,
508 commissions, etc., or which do not affect generally the laws of the Commonwealth deposited
509 with the respective clerks subsequent to 5 p.m. on the third Friday of January of the first annual

510 session of the General Court shall be referred by the Clerks to the committees on the Rules of the
511 two branches, acting concurrently. No such matter shall be admitted for consideration except on
512 report of the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, and then upon
513 approval of two-thirds of the members of each branch voting thereon. Matters upon which
514 suspension of Joint Rule 12 has been negated shall be placed on file.

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

520 [Amended Feb. 7, 18 90; Feb. 2, 18 91; Feb. 7, 18 93; Jan. 10, 18 98; Jan. 9, 18 99; Feb. 15, 19
521 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;
522 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,
523 19 67; March 26, 19 69; Jan. 7, 1971 ; Jan. 15 and Oct. 2, 1973 ; Oct 3, 1983 , June 12, 1995 ;
524 Jan. 26, 2005; July 17, 2003; Jan. 26, 2005; July 21, 2005; Sept. 20, 2005; Feb. 12, 2009.]

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

528 In order to assist the Senate and House in its analysis and appraisal of laws enacted by the
529 General Court, each joint standing committee, upon conclusion of the formal business of the
530 annual sessions, shall, as authorized by Joint Rule 1, initiate oversight hearings to evaluate the

531 effectiveness, application and administration of the subject matter of laws within the jurisdiction
532 of that committee. [Adopted June 12, 1995.]

533 ***Unfinished Business of the Session.***

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

542 ***Papers to be deposited with the Clerks.***

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

550 A member may include a brief statement of intent with all papers intended for presentation to the
551 General Court. Upon a favorable report by a joint standing committee, a committee may include
552 a brief written statement of intent. Said statement shall be dated and shall include the scope of

553 the matter presented for consideration; provided, however, this rule shall not be construed to
554 require the presentation of such statement of intent under this rule. [Adopted Feb. 7, 1890.
555 Amended Feb. 2, 1891; Feb. 7, 1893; Jan. 25, 1894; Dec. 22, 1920; May 25, 1923; Feb. 15,
556 1933; Jan. 12, 1971; June 3, 1985; Feb. 12, 2009.]

557 *Dockets of Legislative Counsel and Agents.*

558 14. The committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, may prescribe the manner
559 and form of keeping the dockets of legislative agents which are required by law. [Adopted Feb.
560 2, 1891; Amended Feb. 19, 1920.]

561 *Duties of the Clerk.*

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

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

569 17. After bills and resolves have passed both branches to be engrossed, they shall be in the
570 charge of the Clerks of the 2 branches, who shall prepare the same for final passage in the
571 manner prescribed by law; and when so prepared the same shall be delivered to the Clerk of the
572 House of Representatives; and when the bills have been passed to be enacted or the resolves have
573 been passed in the House, they shall, in like manner, be delivered to the Senate Clerk and

574 Parliamentary. If a bill or resolve contains an emergency preamble, it shall be delivered in like
575 manner, to the Senate after the preamble has been adopted by the House of Representatives and
576 before the bill or resolve is put upon its final passage in that branch. If the Senate concurs in
577 adopting the preamble, the bill or resolve shall be returned to the House to be there first put upon
578 its final passage, under Joint Rule No. 22. [Amended Feb. 24, 1914; Feb. 21, 1919; Jan. 7, 1971.]

579 18. [Omitted in 1971.]

580 19. The Clerk of the branch in which a bill or resolve originated shall make an endorsement on
581 the envelope of the engrossed copy of the bill, certifying in which branch the bill originated,
582 which endorsement shall be entered on the journals by the Clerks respectively. [Amended Jan.
583 28, 1889; Feb. 24, 1914.]

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

588 ***Presentation and Distribution of Documents.***

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

595 The Clerks of the House of Representatives and the Senate shall be responsible for publishing
596 the journals of their respective chamber, the book Public Officers of Massachusetts, the
597 committee book and any other publications per order of the committees on Rules. [Amended Jan.
598 8, 1886 ; Jan. 28, 1889 ; Jan. 27, 1911 ; Feb. 19, 1920 ; Jan. 6, 1947 ; Apr. 5, 19 67 ; Jan. 7,
599 1971; Feb. 12, 2009; Mar. 14, 2013.]

600 *Emergency Measures.*

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

617 22A. Bills and resolves passed to be engrossed by both branches and before being transmitted by
618 the clerks to the Legislative Engrossing Division shall be made available to the committees on
619 Bills in the Third Reading of the two branches, acting jointly, who shall examine them to ensure
620 accuracy in the text; that the legislation is correct as to form; that references to previous
621 amendments to any particular law are correct and to ensure proper consistency with the language
622 of existing statutes. These committees, with the approval of the majority and minority leadership
623 of both branches may make corrections which are not substantive in nature. The clerks of both
624 branches shall be immediately notified, in writing, of any such changes. Errors discovered by the
625 committees of a substantive nature shall be reported to the General Court, which in turn shall
626 take appropriate action under its rules. Upon completion of examination and possible correction
627 of any such bills and resolves, the bills and resolves shall be returned to the clerks, who in turn,
628 shall transmit them to the Legislative Engrossing Division to be prepared for final passage.
629 [Adopted Sept. 16, 1971.]

630 *Legislative Amendments to the Constitution.*

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

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

663 sent to the other branch; and it shall then be the duty of the Senate and the House of
664 Representatives to arrange for the holding of the joint session not later than the second
665 Wednesday in May. Subject to the requirements of the Constitution, joint sessions or
666 continuances of joint sessions of the 2 branches to consider proposals for specific amendments to
667 the Constitution, and all rules or procedures, shall be determined only by concurrent votes of the
668 2 branches. The rules relative to joint conventions shall apply to the joint sessions of the 2
669 houses. [Adopted Feb. 21, 1919. Amended March 30, 1921; April 11, 1935; Jan. 12, 1939; Jan.
670 15, 1945; Nov. 9, 1951; Jan. 15, 1973; July 1, 1974; Feb. 12, 2009.]

671 *Executive Reorganization Plans.*

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

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

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

685 If the committee recommends favorable action, the report shall be that the reorganization plan
686 'ought to be approved'. If the committee recommends adverse action, the report shall be that the
687 reorganization plan 'ought NOT to be approved'. In each instance, the question shall be 'Shall
688 this reorganization plan be approved?'

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

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

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

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

705 Unless disapproved by a majority vote of the members of either of the 2 branches of the General
706 Court present and voting, the General Court not having prorogued within 60 days from the date

707 of presentation by the Governor, the plan shall be approved and shall take effect as provided by
708 Article LXXXVII of the Amendments to the Constitution.

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

714 No such reorganization plan presented to the General Court shall be subject to change or
715 amendment before expiration of such 60 days. [Adopted June 13, 1967; Amended March 27,
716 1969; June 12, 1995; Feb. 12, 2009.]

717 ***Joint Conventions.***

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

722 25. When an agreement has been made by the 2 branches to go into Convention, such agreement
723 shall not be altered or annulled, except by concurrent vote, excepting that it shall be in order to
724 recess the convention from time to time upon a majority vote of said convention. [Amended Jan.
725 7, 1971 .]

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

728

Special Sessions.

729 26A. If written statements of 21 members of the Senate and 81 members of the House of
730 Representatives, that in their opinion it is necessary that the General Court assemble in special
731 session on a particular date and time specified in their statements during a recess of the General
732 Court, are filed with their respective Clerks, such Clerks shall forthwith notify all the members
733 of their respective branches to assemble at the State House in Boston, on said date at the time so
734 specified. When so assembled, the first business to be taken up shall be the question of the
735 necessity of so assembling, under Article I of Section I of Chapter I of Part the Second of the
736 Constitution of the Commonwealth. If 21 members of the Senate and 81 members of the House
737 of Representatives judge by vote taken by call of the yeas and nays that such assembling of the
738 General Court is necessary, specifying in such vote the facts constituting such necessity, the
739 General Court shall then complete its organization as a special session, proceed to the
740 consideration of the suspension of Joint Rule 12A which if suspended by the required two-thirds
741 of the members of both branches shall permit the General Court to proceed to the consideration
742 of matters properly before it. Nothing in this rule shall prevent the General Court from
743 assembling in any other constitutional manner when it judges necessary. [Adopted Aug. 7, 1939.
744 Amended March 2, 1943; March 27, 19 69; May 5, 1979; July 17, 2003; July 21 and September
745 20, 2005.]

746

Joint Elections.

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

749 27A. In all cases of elections by ballot a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary for a
750 choice, and where there shall be no such a majority on the first ballot the ballots shall be repeated
751 until a majority is obtained; and in balloting, blanks shall be rejected and not taken into the count
752 in the enumeration of votes, excepting that when the number of blanks shall be more than the
753 number of votes received by the candidate having the highest number of votes, then the election
754 shall be declared void and the balloting shall be repeated as provided herein. [Adopted March 27,
755 1969 .]

756 28. [Omitted March 28, 1972 .]

757 *References to the Committees on Rules.*

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

770 29A. Meetings of any special commission, special legislative commission, task force or other
771 group authorized or required by statute, resolve, rule, or order to make or conduct an
772 investigation or study of any issue shall be conducted openly and transparently. Meetings of any
773 special commission, special legislative commission, task force or other group authorized or
774 required by statute, resolve, rule, or order to make or conduct an investigation or study of any
775 issue and which are chaired by members of the general court shall be posted and conducted
776 pursuant to the rules of the senate and house of representatives and shall be conducted according
777 to the following requirements:

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

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

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

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

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

787 30. All motions or orders extending the time within which joint committees and the committees
788 on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, are required to report shall be referred without
789 debate to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, who shall report
790 recommending what action should be taken on the motion or order. Such extension shall be

791 granted by a concurrent majority vote if recommended by the committees on Rules of the two
792 branches, acting concurrently; but no such extension shall be granted, against the
793 recommendation of the committees, except by a four-fifths vote of the members of each branch
794 present and voting on the extension. This rule shall not be rescinded, amended or suspended,
795 except by a concurrent vote of four-fifths of the members of each branch present and voting
796 thereon. [Adopted Jan. 16, 1903. Amended Feb. 6, 1912; Feb. 19, 1920; Jan. 6, 1947; Jan. 27,
797 1955; June 7, 1965.]

798 *Members.*

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

805 *Accommodations for Reporters.*

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

813 convenes the Massachusetts State House Press Association and the State House Broadcasters
814 Association shall each transmit to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
815 Representatives and the Sergeant-at-Arms a list of the legislative reporters with the principal
816 publication or news service which each represents. [Adopted Jan. 27, 1911. Amended Feb. 24,
817 1914; Feb. 19, 1920; April 17, 1925; May 23, 1979; Feb. 12, 2009.]

818 *Suspension of Rules.*

819 33. Any joint rule except Rule 10 and Rule 30 may be altered, suspended or rescinded by a
820 concurrent vote of two-thirds of the members of each branch present and voting thereon.
821 [Amended Feb. 7, 1893. Adopted in revised form Jan. 9, 1899. Amended Jan. 16, 1903; Jan. 26,
822 2005.]

823 *Audit of Accounts.*

824 34. The committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, shall provide that an
825 outside independent audit of joint financial accounts be conducted by a certified public
826 accountant no less frequently than at the end of each second fiscal year. A copy of such audit
827 shall be filed with the Clerks of the Senate and House of Representatives and made available for
828 public inspection upon reasonable notice and during regular office hours. [Adopted May 30,
829 1985.]

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

834

Procurement.

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

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

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

855 (d) If the House Business Manager and the Chief Financial Officer of the Senate seek to procure
856 a supply or service from a vendor not on the statewide procurement list valued at \$100,000 or
857 more, the House Business Manager and the Chief Financial Officer of the Senate shall seek
858 proposals through a competitive bid process, which shall be established by the House Business
859 Manager and the Chief Financial Officer of the Senate.

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

866 (f) Whenever the time required to comply with a requirement of this rule would endanger the
867 health, safety or convenience of the members, staff or visitors to the House of Representatives or
868 Senate the House Business Manager and the Senate Chief Financial Officer may make an
869 emergency procurement without satisfying the requirement of this rules; provided, however, that
870 both the House Business Manager and the Senate Chief Financial Officer certify in writing that:

871 (i) an emergency exists and explain the nature thereof; (ii) the emergency procurement is limited
872 to only supplies or services necessary to meet the emergency; (iii) shall conform to the
873 requirements of rule to the extent practicable under the circumstances; (iv) each contractor's
874 name, (v) the amount and the type of each contract; (vi) the supplies or services provided under
875 each contract; (vii) and basis for determining the need for an emergency procurement.

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

878 (h) If, in the determination of the House Business Manager and the Chief Financial Officer of the
879 Senate, an emergency procurement of greater than \$10,000 is necessary, the House Business
880 Manager and the Chief Financial Officer of the Senate may procure the goods or services
881 immediately and create and maintain a file explaining the nature of the emergency and the goods
882 or services that were procured as a result. The House Business Manager and the Chief Financial
883 Officer of the Senate shall document the goods or services that were procured, the process used
884 to procure the goods or services, the vendors that were contacted and any other information
885 relevant to the procurement, and make that information available to members of the General
886 Court during regular business hours, unless the information is otherwise protected by state or
887 federal law. [Adopted Mar. 14, 2013.]