

SENATE No. 39

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)

SENATE, March 25, 2021

Report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two branches, with reference to the House amendments to the proposed Joint Rules governing the 2021-2022 legislative session adopted by the Senate (Senate, No. 14) (amended by the House by striking out the text and inserting in place thereof the text of House document numbered 68, amended),-- reports, in part (in relation to the first 2 paragraphs of Joint Rule 1 (contained in lines 4 to 41, inclusive, of House document numbered 68, amended; and Joint Rule 1F), that the following report (Senate, No. 39), be accepted; and that when accepted, the text contained in said first 2 paragraphs of Joint Rule 1 (contained in lines 4 to 41, inclusive of House document numbered 68, amended; and Joint Rule 1F, shall be the permanent text of those portions of the Joint Rules for the 2021-2022 Legislative Session (Senate, No. 39).

For the Committee:

Joan B. Lovely

Joseph A. Boncore

Ryan C. Fattman

Claire D. Cronin

William C. Galvin

Paul K. Frost

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Ordered, That the joint rules of the Senate and House of Representatives for the 192nd General Court for the 2021-2022 legislative sessions, insomuch as relates to “portions of Joint Rule 1” and 1F, be adopted, as follows:

Committees.

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

A committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity;

A committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets

A committee on Cannabis Policy;

A committee on Children, Families and Persons With Disabilities;

A committee on Community Development and Small Businesses;

A committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure;

A committee on Covid-19 and Emergency Preparedness and Management;

A committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies;

A committee on Education;

A committee on Elder Affairs;

A committee on Election Laws;

A committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture;

A committee on Export Development;

A committee on Financial Services;

A committee on Health Care Financing;

A committee on Higher Education;

A committee on Housing;

A committee on the Judiciary;

A committee on Labor and Workforce Development;

A committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery;

A committee on Municipalities and Regional Government;

A committee on Public Health;

A committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security;

A committee on Public Service;

A committee on Racial Equity, Civil Rights and Inclusion;

A committee on Revenue;

A committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight;

A committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy;

A committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development;

A committee on Transportation; and

A committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs.

Each to consist of 6 members of the Senate, and 11 on the part of the House except the committees on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets, Economic Development and Emerging Technologies, Public Safety and Homeland Security, Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery, Health Care Financing and Transportation which shall consist of 7 members of the Senate and 13 of the House.

And further by adding the following rule:-

1F. The joint committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets shall review all legislation providing for the giving, loaning or pledging of the credit of the Commonwealth (see

Article LXII of the Amendments to the Constitution, as amended by Article LXXXIV). Said committee shall be responsible for evaluating such legislation and determining the appropriateness of enacting legislation containing increased bond authorizations for the Commonwealth. The committee shall periodically review and hold open public hearings, accepting oral and written testimony on the status of the bonds and notes of the Commonwealth, including (1) general obligation debt; (2) dedicated income tax debt; and (3) special obligation debt. The committee shall also, in its continuing study of the state's bonding practices, review the Commonwealth's liabilities relative to (a) state-supported debt; (b) state-guaranteed debt; and (c) indirect obligations.

Any bill providing for borrowing for new projects, and requiring the Commonwealth to issue bonds for such purpose, shall, prior to its reference to the committee on Ways and Means, be referred to the committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets for report on its relationship to the finances of the Commonwealth. A measure may initially be referred to another joint committee with jurisdiction over the subject matter before being referred to the committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets; provided, however, that notwithstanding any rule to the contrary, any such matter so reported shall not be read a first time in the branch in which the report was received. The next favorable report on any such matter by the committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets shall be considered the first reading. The branch of origin for any such bill so reported shall be the branch receiving such favorable report.

The provisions of Joint Rule 4 shall apply to all matters referred to the joint committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets, except that where constitutionally prohibited.

The joint committee shall consult with the various agencies of the Executive branch and the office of the Treasurer and Receiver-General relative to project expenditures, availability of funds, the sale of new bonds and the resultant debt obligations, federal reimbursements and other related funding and bonding issues.

The joint committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets shall be authorized to conduct hearings relative to the statutory authority of the Executive branch and the Treasurer and Receiver-General in the issuance and sale of bonds and notes and the expenditure of capital funds by the various agencies and authorities of the Commonwealth. The committee shall determine whether such laws, administrative regulations and programs are being implemented in accordance with the intent of the General Court.

The committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets shall be authorized to report to the General Court from time to time on the results of its hearings and to file drafts of legislation necessary to carry its recommendations into effect.

Messages from the Governor setting terms of bonds and notes, or for the de-authorization or authorization of bonds and notes, shall be referred to the committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets.