

Joint Committee on Transportation
Massachusetts General Court
State House, Room 134, Boston, MA
(617) 722-2400

James Arciero
House Chair

Brendan Crighton
Senate Chair

COMMITTEE RULES

2025-2026

A. Public Hearings

1. All petitions referred to the Committee shall be given a public hearing, by the Committee Chairs except as herein provided. The Committee Chairs may discharge bills assigned to the Committee or otherwise dispose of bills assigned to the Committee by electronic or voice poll. Public hearings may be held in the absence of a quorum. Upon mutual agreement, the Committee Chairs may hold a written testimony only hearing.
2. The Senate Chair and House Chair shall agree between themselves who will chair each hearing. In the absence of both Chairpersons, the Vice Chair present or a Committee member designated by a Chair shall conduct the hearing.
3. All cell phones and pagers must be turned off or silenced during hearings and executive sessions. The Chairs must be notified in advance and may approve the use of electronic recording devices at a public hearing or executive session.
4. All Persons testifying before the Committee shall furnish the following information to the Committee:
 - A) Name
 - B) Organization
 - C) Address
 - D) Telephone number
 - E) Bill number and subject matter on which the person is testifying
 - F) Whether proponent or opponent of the subject matter or bill.

5. All questions put to persons testifying before the Committee shall be pertinent to the subject matter before the Committee. The pertinence of the subject matter shall be determined by the Chairs.
6. The presiding Chair or acting presiding member (hereafter “the Chair”), shall use his or her discretion in scheduling the order in which proposals shall be heard at any public hearing or executive session of the Committee.
7. No one shall be allowed to speak at any meeting without first being recognized by the Chair. The Chair shall use discretion in setting a time limit for oral testimony. All questions by members of the Committee to persons testifying before the Committee shall be addressed through the Chair and shall be pertinent to the subject matter before the Committee. The Chairs may, if necessary, limit the time of questioning by each member after giving due consideration to the importance of the subject matter, the number of petitions scheduled for hearing, and the length of time available to the Committee.
8. Each member of the Committee will receive, electronically, a schedule of the public hearings on legislation referred to the committee. The schedule will group legislation by category, noting the hearing date, time and location. Each member of the committee will be notified electronically of any public hearing or executive session at least 10 days prior to the hearing date.
9. Written testimony shall be made available to the public, provided however that the Committee may withhold or redact testimony when: disclosure is prohibited by state or federal law; the testimony includes sensitive personal information or information that may jeopardize the health, welfare, or safety of the testifier or others; or otherwise includes abusive content or language.

B. Executive Session/Polls

1. Executive sessions may be scheduled after each public hearing and at other appropriate times. Whenever an executive session is held at a time other than on the day of a public hearing, each member of the Committee shall be furnished with adequate advance notice, of the date, time, place and subject of such executive session.
2. No executive session may be held in the absence of either Committee Chair, except by mutual agreement of both Chairs. The Chair presiding will have general supervision of the executive session.
3. All executive sessions of the Committee shall be open to the public unless the Committee, in accordance with Joint Rule 1D, votes to close such sessions.

4. A majority vote of the members present at the executive session shall constitute the recommendations of the Committee.
5. Any member of the Committee shall have the right to be recorded as dissenting from or abstaining from the Committee recommendation provided that the Committee Chairs have been informed of this desire by the end of the executive session.
6. Upon a motion made by a member of the Committee in attendance at an executive session and seconded by another member of the Committee in attendance who is also a member of the same legislative branch as the member making the motion, a poll of the Committee members of that branch shall be taken to determine the recommendation of the Committee on a specific matter before said Committee that was filed in the same branch as the members making and seconding the motion. In the event that a poll is taken the members of the legislative branch having made and seconded the motion shall be given 24 hours to respond to the poll. The votes of the majority of those members responding to the poll shall constitute the recommendation of the committee. The House and Senate Chairs may waive the 24 hour notice requirement for such polls.
7. In lieu of an executive session, the Senate and House Chairs may conduct a poll of their respective Committee members to determine the recommendation of the Committee on a specific petition filed within their legislative branch. A reasonable amount of time, as determined by the Chair, shall be given for members to record their votes, and the deadline for recording votes shall be announced to each member. All votes received prior to the closing of the poll shall be recorded on the appropriate form and the record of all such roll calls shall be kept in the offices of the Committee and shall be available for public inspection.
8. Matters reported by the Committee shall be sent to the branch of the legislature in which the matter originated, except that reports on money bills shall be made to the House.

C. Adoptions and Suspensions

1. These rules shall be adopted by a majority vote of Committee members.
2. Except for Part B, #2, any rule may be suspended with the consent of the Chairs.