

Proposed Changes to Rules

- Joint committee structure and process
 - Hearings will be conducted jointly on all House and Senate bills, with the administrative responsibility of conducting hearings being shared equally between the two branches.
 - House staff will prepare materials related to bills filed in the House for House members on the joint committee, and Senate staff will do the same for Senate bills.
 - After a bill is heard by the joint committee, the House or Senate Chair may unilaterally poll members of the committee from their respective branch on a bill filed in that branch.
- Summaries
 - Joint committees will be required to produce plain-language summaries of all bills in time for their hearings, which will be posted to the General Court's website.
- Hearing attendance and committee votes
 - Members of a joint committee cannot participate remotely and must be physically present in the hearing room. Remote participation is reserved for members of the public only.
 - How each individual member votes on polls conducted by the committees will be posted on the website, along with the relevant hearing attendance of the member voting on the poll.
- Bill reporting
 - Committees must make final report not later than 60 days after a matter is heard by the committee, but Chairs may request an additional 30 days, at their discretion.
 - Additional extensions must be approved by the branch seeking the extension.
 - Bills cannot be extended beyond the third Wednesday in March of the second annual session.