

SENATE . . . . . No. 2.

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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SENATE, Jan. 7, 1881.

The Joint Special Committee, appointed to prepare rules and orders for the government of the two branches, report the same in a draft herewith submitted.

For the Committee,

GEORGE G. CROCKER.

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty-one.

## COMMITTEES.

RULE 2. Joint committees may report by bill, resolve, or otherwise, to either branch, at their discretion; except that when a report is made from any committee to either branch, and the subject-matter thereof is subsequently referred therein to a joint committee, such committee shall report its action to the branch in which the original report was made. [See also next rule.]

RULE 3. Reports of joint committees may be recommitted to the same committees at the pleasure of the branch first acting thereon, and bills or resolves may be recommitted in either branch. A concurrent vote shall, however, be necessary for the recommitment of such reports, bills, or resolves, with instructions. After recommitment, report shall in all cases be made to the branch originating the recommitment.

RULE 4. Bills and resolves reported by joint committees shall be fairly written in a legible hand, without material erasure or interlineation, on not less than one sheet of paper, with suitable margins, and spaces between the several sections, dates and numbers being written in words at length.

RULE 5. Whenever, upon any application for an act of incorporation or other special legislation, the purpose for which such legislation is sought can be secured without detriment to the public interests by a general law or under existing laws, the committee to which the matter is referred shall report such general law, or "leave to withdraw," or "inexpedient to legislate." [Amended Jan. 14, 1880.]

#### PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF DOCUMENTS.

RULE 6. The committee on printing may make regulations for the distribution of all documents printed or assigned for the use of the legislature not otherwise disposed of, such regulations to be reported to and subject to the order of the two branches.

Under the general order to print a report, bill, or other document, the number printed shall be eight hundred.

Leave to report in print shall not be construed to authorize the printing of extended reports of evidence.

No printing except as aforesaid, and no binding or engraving, shall be ordered, except upon the report of the joint committee on printing, accepted by the legislature.

Bills, reports, and other documents, printed under the general order of either House, shall be distributed as follows; to wit, Two copies to each member of the Senate and House of Representatives (to be placed on his file under the direction of the sergeant-at-arms, if desired by the member); three copies to each clerk in either branch, and three copies to each reporter in regular attendance, to whom a seat has been assigned in

either branch; twenty copies to the executive; twenty copies to the secretary's office; six copies to the State library; and when the document is the report of a committee, ten copies shall be assigned to the committee making the report. The sergeant-at-arms shall preserve as many as may be necessary for the permanent files to be placed in the lobbies, and distribute the remainder under such regulations as may be prescribed by said joint committee. [Amended Jan. 7, 1876; also Jan. 3, 1879.]

#### NOTICE TO PARTIES INTERESTED.

**RULE 7.** No bill or resolve affecting directly the legal rights of individuals or corporations, otherwise than as it affects generally the interests of the whole people of the Commonwealth, or of the cities or towns to which it specifically applies, shall be proposed or introduced, by amendment or otherwise, except by report of a committee, upon petition duly presented and referred.

**RULE 8.** No bill or resolve specially affecting the rights of individuals, or private or municipal corporations, shall be reported by a committee, unless notice has been given to all parties interested, by public advertisement or otherwise, without expense to the Commonwealth; or, unless satisfactory evidence is produced that the parties interested have either received notice in writing, or have in writing waived notice. Objection to the violation of this or the last preceding rule may be taken at any stage prior to the third reading of the bill or resolve.

## LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS.

*Limit of Time Allowed for Reports of Committees.*

RULE 9. Joint committees shall make final report upon all matters previously referred to them, on or before the first Wednesday in March, unless further time is granted for cause. [Amended Jan. 3, 1879.]

*Limit of Time Allowed for Introduction of Business.*

RULE 10. Petitions, memorials, applications, and all other subjects of legislation proposed or introduced after the first Wednesday of February, shall be referred to the next General Court. This rule shall not be rescinded, amended, or suspended, except by a concurrent vote of four-fifths of the members of each branch present and voting thereon. [Amended Jan. 5, 1877, and Jan. 8, 1878; also Jan. 3, 1879.]

RULE 11. No proposition for the increase of the compensation of the members of the legislature, or of any employé thereof, shall be introduced by amendment or otherwise after the first Wednesday of March. This rule shall not be suspended in either branch, except by a four-fifths vote of the members present and voting taken by the yeas and nays.

## COMMITTEES OF CONFERENCE.

RULE 12. Committees of conference shall consist of three members on the part of each branch, representing its vote; and their report, if agreed to by a majority of each committee, shall be made to the branch asking the

conference, and may be either accepted or rejected, but no other action shall be had, except through a new committee of conference.

*Duties of the Clerks.*

RULE 13. If any part of the report of a committee over the signature of the chairman or members of the committee is amended in either branch, the clerk of that branch shall indorse upon the report such amendment. [This rule was adopted Jan. 10, 1874.]

RULE 14. All papers, while on their passage between the two branches, may be under the signature of the respective clerks, except bills and resolves in their last stage. Messages may be sent by such persons as each branch may direct.

RULE 15. After bills have passed both branches to be engrossed, they shall be in the charge of the clerks of the two branches, who shall deliver the same to the secretary of the Commonwealth, to be engrossed in the manner prescribed by law; and, when engrossed, the said clerks shall forthwith deliver the same to the committee of the House of Representatives on engrossed bills; and, when the same have passed to be enacted in that House, they shall, in like manner, be delivered to the committee of the Senate on engrossed bills.

RULE 16. If any petition, memorial, bill, resolve, or order, presented or originating in one branch, is adversely acted upon in the other, notice thereof shall be given, under the signature of the clerk, to the branch in which the same originated. [Amended Jan. 8, 1878, and Jan. 14, 1880.]

RULE 17. The clerk of the branch in which a bill originated shall make an indorsement thereon, certifying in which branch the same originated, which indorsement shall be entered on the journals by the clerks respectively.

After said bills have passed both Houses to be enacted, the clerk of the Senate shall lay them before the governor for his approbation, and shall enter upon the journal of the Senate the day on which the same were laid before the governor.

RULE 18. All resolves and other papers which are to be presented to the governor for his approbation, shall be laid before him in the same manner as is prescribed in the case of bills.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

RULE 19. All resolves proposing amendments of the constitution shall have three several readings in each branch, and the final question upon adopting the same shall be taken by yeas and nays.

#### JOINT CONVENTIONS.

RULE 20. The president of the Senate shall preside in conventions of the two branches, and such conventions shall be holden in the representatives' chamber; the clerk of the Senate shall be clerk of the convention, and a record of the proceedings of the convention shall be entered at large on the journals of both branches.

RULE 21. When an agreement has been made by the two branches to go into convention, such agreement shall not be altered or annulled, except by concurrent vote.

RULE 22. No business shall be entered on, in convention, other than that which may be agreed on before the convention is formed.

#### JOINT ELECTIONS.

RULE 23. In all elections by joint ballot, a time shall be assigned therefor at least one day previous to such election.

#### ELECTIONS OF UNITED STATES SENATORS.

RULE 24. The joint assembly required to be held by the Act of Congress approved July 25, 1866, entitled "An Act to regulate the times and manner of holding elections for senators in Congress," shall be deemed a convention of the two branches, and the proceedings therein shall be in accordance with the provisions of said Act. The president of the convention shall receive no motion on any day until one vote for senator has been taken. After one vote for senator has been taken, no motion shall be in order except a motion to adjourn, for a recess, or to proceed to vote for senator; and these motions shall have precedence in the order of their arrangement, and shall be decided without debate. If a motion is made for a recess, and different times are proposed, the question shall first be taken on the most remote time; and the time shall be determined, but without debate, before the question is put upon taking the recess. On either of the questions permitted by this rule, the sense of the convention shall be taken by yeas and nays, whenever required by one-fifth of the members present. When the yeas and nays are taken, the roll of

the convention shall be called in alphabetical order ; and no member shall be allowed to vote who was not on the floor when his name was called, or before the roll-call was finished. The call for the yeas and nays shall be decided without debate.





