

SENATE No. 1408

By Mr. LoPresti, a petition (accompanied by order, Senate, No. 1408) of Michael LoPresti, Jr., Michael J. Barrett and Robert A. Havern for the adoption of an order to amend the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives to expedite the legislative process and to allow for the orderly carry-over of matters engrossed in either branch. Senate Rules.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Two.

1 *Ordered*, That the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of
2 Representatives are hereby amended by inserting after the first
3 paragraph of Rule 1 the following new paragraphs:

4 Within twenty-one days of the opening of each annual session
5 of each General Court the House and Senate shall consider and
6 adopt the separate rules of the Senate and House and the joint
7 rules of the two branches.

8 Within three days of the opening of each annual session of each
9 General Court the Committees on Rules of the Senate and the
10 House of Representatives shall meet concurrently to establish a
11 designated day of each week and designated hours during that day
12 which shall be set aside for the holding of formal sessions of the
13 respective branches and during which the joint standing
14 committees shall not hold public hearings or executive sessions
15 of their members from the opening of the first annual session
16 through the fourth Wednesday of April in that session, and from
17 the opening of the second annual session through the first
18 Wednesday of April in that session.

19 Said Joint Rules are further amended by striking out Rule 1C
20 and inserting in its place the following:

21 1C. All Joint Standing Committees shall schedule committee
22 hearings and executive sessions so as not to conflict with the day
23 of the week and hours of the day which have been designated
24 under Rule 1 as the day of the week and times during that day

25 set aside for formal sessions of the respective branches from
26 January first of each year through the fourth Wednesday of April
27 of the first annual session and the first Wednesday of April of
28 the second annual session.

29 Said Joint Rules are further amended in Rule 10 by striking
30 out the first sentence and inserting in place thereof the following:

31 10. Joint Committees and the Committees on Rules of the two
32 branches, acting concurrently, shall in the first annual session
33 make a final report on all matters referred to them before the
34 fifteenth day of April of that session not later than the fourth
35 Wednesday in April, and within ten days on all matters referred
36 to them on and after the fifteenth day of April; and shall in the
37 second annual session make a final report on all matters referred
38 to them before the twenty-fifth day of March of that session not
39 later than the first Wednesday in April, and within ten days on
40 all matters referred to them on and after the twenty-fifth day of
41 March.

42 Said Joint Rules are further amended in Rule 12 in the first
43 paragraph by striking out the words: "preceding the first annual
44 session of the General Court and prior to five o'clock in the
45 afternoon on the first Wednesday in November preceding the
46 second annual session of the General Court" and in the second
47 paragraph by striking out the words: "preceding the first annual
48 session of the General Court or deposited with the respective
49 clerks subsequent to five o'clock on the first Wednesday of
50 November preceding the second annual session of the General
51 Court."

52 Said Joint Rules are further amended by inserting after Rule 12
53 the following rules:

54 12A. All business of the first annual session of the General
55 Court shall be concluded no later than the fourth Tuesday in
56 November and all business of the second annual session of the
57 General Court shall be concluded no later than the first day of
58 November of that calendar year.

59 12B. Any matter pending before the General Court at the end
60 of the first annual session which has been engrossed in either
61 branch, or which is a petition restricted to a particular city or town
62 which has received the approval of the voters of the city or town,

63 or the town meeting of the town, or which is pending before a
64 conference committee of the two branches at the end of a first
65 annual session, shall be resumed at the second annual session of
66 the same General Court in the status at which it was at the
67 conclusion of the first annual session. Any committee on
68 conference which has not previously been dissolved shall be
69 dissolved at the end of the first annual session and a new
70 committee shall be appointed on or after December first of the
71 year preceding the second annual session of the same General
72 Court.

73 12C. The House of Representatives shall complete the passage
74 of its state budget recommendations for the fiscal year which
75 begins on July first in time for the Senate to take up consideration
76 of the budget on or before May first.

