

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

SENATE, December 2, 1969.

1 *Ordered*, That the Joint Rules be amended as follows:

2 Inserting after Joint Rule 7B the following new rule: —

3 7C. All business which is pending before either branch of
4 the general court at the end of the annual and special ses-
5 sions occurring in an odd numbered year shall be resumed
6 at the commencement of the next annual session of the same
7 general court in the even numbered year in the same manner
8 as if no adjournment had taken place.

9 Striking out Joint Rule 10 and inserting in place thereof
10 the following new Joint Rule 10: —

11 10. Joint committees shall make final report not later than
12 the fourth Wednesday of March on all matters referred to
13 them previously to the fifteenth day of March, and within
14 ten days on all matters referred to them on and after the
15 fifteenth day of March, provided that such report shall be
16 final in even numbered years. When the time within which
17 such joint committees are required to report has expired,
18 all matters upon which no report has then been made shall
19 forthwith be reported by the chairman of the committee
20 on the part of the branch in which they were respectively
21 introduced, with a recommendation of reference to the next
22 annual session under this rule, provided that, in odd num-
23 bered years, such recommendations may require committee in-
24 vestigations and reports to be completed in the following
25 year. If the chairman fails to make such report by the end
26 of the legislative day next following the expiration date, all
27 matters remaining unreported shall be placed in the Orders of
28 the Day by the Clerk of the branch in which the matter
29 was originally filed with a recommendation of reference to
30 the next annual session under this rule. This rule shall not

31 be rescinded, amended or suspended, except by a concurrent
32 vote of four-fifths of the members of each branch present
33 and voting thereon.

34 Striking out Joint Rule 12 and inserting in place thereof
35 the following new Joint Rule 12: —

36 12. During the first session only of the general court in odd
37 numbered years, resolutions intended for adoption by both
38 branches of the General Court, petitions, memorials, bills and
39 resolves introduced on leave, and all other subjects of legisla-
40 tion, except reports required or authorized to be made to the
41 Legislature, deposited with the Clerk of either branch sub-
42 sequently to five o'clock in the afternoon on the first Wednes-
43 day in December preceding the annual session of the General
44 Court, shall be laid before the branch in which it is presented
45 and shall be referred to the next annual session; but this rule
46 shall not apply to petitions in aid of, and remonstrances
47 against, legislation already introduced and pending; nor shall
48 it apply to a petition offered in place of a former one having
49 in view the same object, upon which, before reference to a
50 committee, leave to withdraw was given because the same
51 was not in proper form, provided that such subsequent pe-
52 tition is deposited with the Clerk of either branch within
53 one week from the day on which leave to withdraw was
54 given. No new subjects of Legislation may be introduced at
55 the start of the second annual session of the General Court.
56 At any special session called under Rule 26A, however, mat-
57 ters relating to the facts constituting the necessity for con-
58 vening such session shall, if otherwise admissible, be admitted
59 as though filed seasonably in accordance with the first sen-
60 tence of this rule. During both first and second annual ses-
61 sions of the General Court, any recommendations from the
62 Governor shall be similarly considered. This rule shall not be
63 rescinded, amended or suspended, except by a concurrent vote
64 four-fifths of the members of each branch present and voting
65 thereon: provided, however, that, except by unanimous con-
66 sent, it shall not be suspended with reference to a petition
67 legislation when such petition is not accompanied by a bill
68 or a resolve embodying the legislation requested.