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Filed by Mr. DiMasi of Boston. January 21, 2003.

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Three.

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1 *Ordered*, That the following rules be adopted as the permanent  
2 Joint Rules 10, 11B, 12, 12A and 26A for the 2003-2004 General  
3 Court:—

4 **10.** All joint committees and the committees on Rules of the  
5 two branches, acting concurrently, shall make final report not later  
6 than the second Wednesday in April of the second annual session  
7 of the General Court on all matters referred to them before the  
8 second Wednesday in March of the second annual session and  
9 within thirty days on all matters referred to them on or after the  
10 second Wednesday in March of the second annual session of the  
11 General Court. When the time within which said committees are  
12 required to report has expired, all matters upon which no report  
13 has then been made shall forthwith be reported by the chairman of  
14 the committee on the part of the branch in which they were  
15 respectively introduced, with an adverse recommendation under  
16 this rule. If the chairman fails to make such report by the end of  
17 the legislative day next following the expiration date, all matters  
18 remaining unreported shall be placed in the Orders of the Day by  
19 the Clerk of the branch in which the matter was originally filed  
20 with an adverse report under this rule. Matters which have been  
21 referred under the provisions of Joint Rule 29, upon which the  
22 chairmen of the committees on Rules fail to make a report, shall  
23 be placed by the respective Clerks in the Orders of the Day of the  
24 branch in which the subject matter was referred to said commit-  
25 tees. Committees to whom are referred subjects of legislation may  
26 combine petitions of similar subject matter, or other forms of leg-  
27 islation of similar subject matter, into one adverse report, and the  
28 report thereon shall be that said petitions or other forms of legisla-  
29 tion “ought NOT to pass,” and if the report is accepted, all the  
30 matters contained therein shall be disposed of. However, petitions

31 upon which an adverse report is accepted in only one branch, may  
32 not be combined with other subjects of legislation upon which  
33 adverse reports must be accepted, in concurrence. The provisions  
34 of this rule shall not apply to petitions referred to the committees  
35 on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, under the pro-  
36 visions of the second paragraph of Joint Rule 12. This rule shall  
37 not be rescinded, amended or suspended, except by a concurrent  
38 vote of four-fifths of the members of each branch present and  
39 voting thereon. Notwithstanding the provisions of Joint Rule 30,  
40 this rule shall not be rescinded, amended or suspended more than  
41 three times except by unanimous consent.

42 [Amended Feb. 2, 1891; Jan. 25, 1894; Jan. 16, 1903; Jan. 20,  
43 1904; Dec. 22, 1920; April 17, 1925; Jan. 12, 1939; Jan. 15, 1945;  
44 Jan. 6, 1947; May 7, 1953; Jan. 27, 1955; Jan. 30, 1967; Jan. 7,  
45 1971; Feb. 4, 1974, June 12, 1995.]

1 **11B.** No report from a committee of conference shall be consid-  
2 ered or acted upon by either branch until the calendar day  
3 following during which said report shall have been available to  
4 the public and to the members of the General Court in a format to  
5 be determined by the Clerk of the branch in which the report is  
6 filed. The committee shall file its report no later than eight  
7 o'clock P.M. on the day preceding its consideration and the  
8 General Court shall not consider said report before one o'clock  
9 P.M. on the following day, except that a report from such com-  
10 mittee of conference that it is unable to agree may be considered  
11 and acted upon at the time that such report is filed.

12 [Adopted Oct. 3, 1983.]

1 **12.** Resolutions intended for adoption by both branches of the  
2 General Court, petitions, and all other subjects of legislation, shall  
3 be deposited with the Clerk of either branch prior to five o'clock  
4 in the afternoon on the first Wednesday in December preceding  
5 the first annual session of the General Court.

6 All such matters (except messages from the Governor, reports  
7 required or authorized to be made to the Legislature and petitions  
8 filed or approved by the voters of a city or town, or the mayor and  
9 city council, or other legislative body of a city, or the town  
10 meeting of a town, for the enactment of a special law in compli-  
11 ance with the requirements of Section 8 of Article LXXXIX of the

12 Amendments to the Constitution and which do not affect the powers,  
13 duties, etc., of state departments, boards, commissions, etc., or  
14 which do not affect generally the laws of the Commonwealth)  
15 deposited with the respective clerks subsequent to five o'clock on  
16 the first Wednesday of December preceding the first annual session  
17 of the General Court shall be referred by the Clerks to the com-  
18 mittees on the Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently. No  
19 such matter shall be admitted for consideration except on report of  
20 the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently,  
21 and then upon approval of two-thirds of the members of each  
22 branch voting thereon. Matters upon which suspension of Joint  
23 Rule 12 has been negatived shall be placed on file.

24 At any special session called under Rule 26A, however, matters  
25 relating to the facts constituting the necessity for convening such  
26 session shall, if otherwise admissible, be admitted as though filed  
27 seasonably in accordance with the first sentence of this rule. Any  
28 recommendations from the Governor shall be similarly consid-  
29 ered. This rule shall not be rescinded, amended or suspended,  
30 except by a concurrent vote of two-thirds of the members of each  
31 branch present and voting thereon.

32 [Amended Feb. 7, 1890; Feb. 2, 1891; Feb. 7, 1893; Jan. 10,  
33 1898; Jan. 9, 1899; Feb. 15, 1901; May 4, 1904; Jan. 31, 1910;  
34 Feb. 2, 1917; Dec. 22, 1920; March 30, 1921; Jan. 30, 1923; Feb.  
35 15, 1933; Jan. 12 and Aug. 7, 1939; Jan. 15, 1945; Jan. 6, 1947;  
36 May 27, 1948; Jan. 30, 1967; March 26, 1969; Jan. 7, 1971; Jan.  
37 15 and Oct. 2, 1973; Oct 3, 1983, June 12, 1995.]

1 **12A.** All formal business of the first annual session of the  
2 General Court shall be concluded no later than the third Wednes-  
3 day in November of that calendar year and all formal business of  
4 the second annual session shall be concluded no later than the last  
5 Wednesday in July of that calendar year.

6 In order to assist the Senate and House in its analysis and  
7 appraisal of laws enacted by the General Court, each joint  
8 standing committee, upon conclusion of the formal business of the  
9 annual sessions, shall, as authorized by Joint Rule 1, initiate over-  
10 sight hearings for the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness,  
11 application and administration of the subject matter of laws within  
12 the jurisdiction of that committee.

13 [Adopted June 12, 1995.]

1     **26A.** If written statements of twenty-one members of the Senate  
2 and eighty-one members of the House of Representatives, that in  
3 their opinion it is necessary that the General Court assemble  
4 in special session on a particular date and time specified therein  
5 during a recess of the General Court, are filed with their respec-  
6 tive Clerks, such Clerks shall forthwith notify all the members of  
7 their respective branches to assemble at the State House in Boston  
8 on said date at the time so specified. When so assembled, the first  
9 business to be taken up shall be the question of the necessity of so  
10 assembling, in accordance with Article I of Section I of Chapter I  
11 of Part the Second of the Constitution of the Commonwealth. If  
12 twenty-one members of the Senate and eighty-one members of the  
13 House of Representatives judge by vote taken by call of the yeas  
14 and nays that such assembling of the General Court is necessary,  
15 specifying in such vote the facts constituting such necessity, the  
16 General Court shall then complete its organization as a special  
17 session and proceed to the consideration of the suspension of Joint  
18 Rule 12A, which if suspended by the required two-thirds of the  
19 members of both branches, will permit the General Court to pro-  
20 ceed to consideration of matters properly before it. Nothing herein  
21 contained shall prevent the General Court from assembling in any  
22 other constitutional manner when it judges necessary.

23     [Adopted Aug. 7, 1939. Amended March 2, 1943; March 27,  
24 1969; May 5, 1979.]