

PROPOSED SENATE AND JOINT RULES
AMENDMENTS RELATING TO A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION

1 With respect to adoption of the rules by the Senate during a special session called to order
2 in 2026, the relevant motion would be:

3 That the Senate and Joint Rules of the 69th Legislative Assembly, in effect upon the
4 adjournment of the 2025 regular legislative session, be amended as follows for the
5 extraordinary session of the 69th Legislative Assembly, with the exception of the amendments to
6 Senate Rules 402 and 509 and Joint Rule 203, as reflected in Sections 7, 10, and 13, which
7 become effective upon the conclusion of the extraordinary session of the 69th Legislative
8 Assembly:

9 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 4 of Senate Rule 318 is amended as follows:

10 4. The following questions require a two-thirds vote of the members-elect of the Senate:

11 a. Initiated and referred measures amended or repealed within seven years after
12 enactment or approval, as provided in Section 8, Article III, of the Constitution
13 and Senate Rule 339.

14 b. Emergency clauses, as provided in Section 13, Article IV, of the Constitution.

15 c. Vetoed measures, reconsideration, as provided in Section 9, Article V, of the
16 Constitution.

17 d. Adoption of propositions of a divided question if the division would require a
18 two-thirds vote of the members-elect, as provided in Senate Rule 319.

19 e. To recede before a conference in a case where two-thirds governs, as provided
20 in Joint Rule 202.

21 f. ~~Second reading same day as report, as provided in Senate Rule 337.~~

22 g. Reconsideration after the next legislative day or after a previous motion to
23 reconsider, as provided in Senate Rule 348.

24 h.g. Reconsideration after a clincher motion, as provided in Senate Rule 349.

25 i.h. Suspension of requirement that copies of amendments be distributed before
26 acted on, as provided in Senate Rule 601.

27 j.i. Amendment, reconsideration, or suspension of a joint rule, as provided in Joint
28 Rule 105.

NOTE: This rule amendment removes the requirement for a two-thirds vote of the members-elect to hold second reading on the same day an item is reported from committee.

1 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Senate Rule 329 is amended as follows:

2 **329. Measures referred to the Joint Appropriations Committee.**

3 1. Every bill providing an appropriation of fifty thousand dollars or more must be referred
4 or rereferred to and acted on by the Appropriations Committee, and every bill or
5 resolution proposing a change in the audit or fiscal procedures of a state agency or
6 institution must be originally referred to and acted upon by that committee, before final
7 action by the Senate thereon, unless ~~Unless~~ otherwise ordered by a majority vote of
8 the members present.

9 2. before final action by the House, the following must be referred or rereferred to and
10 acted on by the Joint Appropriations Committee:

11 a. Every bill approved for introduction by a two-thirds vote of the members of the
12 House present and voting which provides an appropriation of one hundred
13 thousand dollars or more or resolution with~~has~~ a fiscal note stating the measure
14 has an effect of two hundred thousand dollars or more on the appropriation for a
15 state agency or department must be rereferred to and acted on by the
16 Appropriations Committee before final action by the Senate thereon, unless
17 otherwise ordered by a majority vote of the members present;

18 b. Every bill amended to include an appropriation of one hundred thousand dollars
19 or more or amended in a manner that results in a fiscal note stating the measure
20 has an effect of two hundred thousand dollars or more on the appropriation for a
21 state agency or institution; and

22 c. Every bill or resolution proposing a change in the audit or fiscal procedures of a
23 state agency or institution.

24 3.2. A bill or resolution required to be referred or rereferred to the Joint Appropriations
25 Committee which received a do not pass recommendation from committee and which
26 then is passed by the Senate is deemed reconsidered and must be referred to and
27 acted upon by the Joint Appropriations Committee if that measure has not been
28 referred or rereferred to the Joint Appropriations Committee before passage. The Joint
29 Appropriations Committee shall report the measure back to the Senate for action in
30 accordance with these rules.

1 4. Except for bills approved for introduction after the deadline for introduction of bills, all
2 Senate bills required to be rereferred to the Appropriations Committee must be
3 rereferred not later than the twenty-third legislative day and all House bills required to
4 be rereferred to the Appropriations Committee must be rereferred not later than the
5 fifty-fifth legislative day. If an appropriation bill is not reported to the floor and
6 rereferred as required herein, the bill is deemed rereferred and is under the jurisdiction
7 of the Appropriations Committee at the end of the twenty-third or fifty-fifth legislative
8 day, as appropriate.

NOTE: This rule amendment pertains to referral or rereferral of bills to the Joint Appropriations Committee and requires any bill approved for introduction by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Senate present and voting, which provides an appropriation of \$100,000 or more, has a fiscal note indicating an effect of \$200,000 or more, is amended to include an appropriation of \$100,000 or more, is amended in a manner that results in a fiscal note indicating an effect of \$200,000 or more, or proposes a change in the audit or fiscal procedures of a state agency or institution, must be referred or rereferred to and acted on by the Joint Appropriations Committee.

9 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Senate Rule 337 is amended as follows:

10 **337. Second reading.** No bill requiring the approval of the Governor, no resolution
11 proposing a change in the Constitution of North Dakota, and no resolution ratifying an
12 amendment to the Constitution of the United States may be referred, except in the case of a bill
13 or resolution that is prefiled pursuant to Senate Rule 401, or amended until it has been read;
14 nor may any such bill or resolution have its second reading and final passage until at least one
15 day after it has been reported to the Senate by the committee to which it was referred, provided
16 that any such bill or resolution may have its second reading and final passage on the same day
17 it is reported back when so ordered by two-thirds of the members-elect of the Senate its first
18 reading.

NOTE: This rule amendment allows the second reading and final passage of a bill or resolution to occur on the same day the measure is reported from committee without requiring a two-thirds vote of the members elect of the Senate.

19 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Senate Rule 347 is amended as follows:

20 **347. Transmittal of measure to House - Notice of intention to reconsider.**

21 1. After the second reading of a bill or resolution, the Secretary of the Senate shall retain
22 the bill or resolution until the end of the next legislative day, unless the bill or resolution
23 has previously been disposed of.

24 2. On the thirty-sixth and thirty-seventh legislative days and after the fifty-seventh
25 legislative day, the Secretary of the Senate shall transmit the bill or resolution to the

1 House immediately upon adjournment of the last session on that day unless action on
2 the bill or resolution is pending as the result of the Senate passing a motion to
3 reconsider or unless the Majority or Minority Leader has given notice of intention to
4 move the reconsideration of that bill or resolution.

5 3. After the sixty-sixth legislative day, the Secretary of the Senate shall transmit the bill or
6 resolution to the House immediately after the second reading of the bill or resolution
7 unless the Majority or Minority Leader has given notice of intention to move the
8 reconsideration of that bill or resolution.

9 4. When a member in explaining the member's vote states to the Senate that the
10 member's vote is for the purpose of reconsideration, that statement also is notice of
11 such intention.

12 5. If notice is given by a member other than the Majority or Minority Leader but the
13 motion to reconsider is not made before the end of the next legislative day, the
14 Secretary of the Senate shall transmit the bill or resolution to the House at the end of
15 that next legislative day.

16 2. If notice of intention to move reconsideration is given by the Majority or Minority
17 Leader, the Secretary of the Senate shall retain the bill or resolution until adjournment
18 of that day's session.

NOTE: This rule amendment allows immediate transmittal of a measure to the other house after second reading unless notice of intention to reconsider is given by the Majority or Minority Leader.

19 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of Senate Rule 401 is amended as follows:

20 1. Any bill or resolution that conforms to statutory requirements and these rules, ~~within~~
21 ~~the number and time prescribed~~, may be introduced by any member, standing
22 committee, or the Legislative Management, by filing the bill or resolution with the
23 Secretary, who shall number consecutively each bill or resolution.

NOTE: This rule amendment eliminates references to introducing bills within the number and time prescribed (under Senate Rule 402). Senate Rule 402 is proposed for amendment to eliminate references to introducing numbers of bills depending on the legislative day.

24 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Senate Rule 402 is amended as follows:

25 **402. When introduced.**

26 1. ~~No member other than the Majority and Minority Leaders may introduce more than~~
27 ~~three bills as prime sponsor after the eighth legislative day. A bill containing an-~~

1 appropriation clause may not be introduced after the eighth legislative day. No bill or
2 resolution may be introduced after the thirteenth legislative day, and no resolution,
3 except those resolutions described in subsection 3, may be introduced after the
4 sixteenth legislative day, except only upon approval of a majority of the Delayed Bills
5 Committee Legislative Management or upon two-thirds vote of the members of the
6 Senate present and voting.

7 2. No bill introduced at the request of an executive agency or the Supreme Court may be
8 introduced after the close of business on the day after the adjournment of the
9 organizational session, except upon approval of a majority of the Delayed Bills
10 Committee.

11 3. Resolutions that propose amendments to the Constitution of North Dakota and
12 resolutions directing the Legislative Management to carry out a study may not be
13 introduced after the thirty-fourth legislative day.

NOTE: This rule amendment restricts the introduction of bills or resolutions during the special session to those approved by the Legislative Management or by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Senate present and voting. The Delayed Bills Committee will not meet during the special session, thus Senate Rule 403 related to the Delayed Bills Committee is suspended during the special session.

14 **SECTION 7.* AMENDMENT.** Senate Rule 402 is amended as follows:

15 **402. When introduced.**

16 1. No member other than the Majority and Minority Leaders may introduce more than
17 three bills as prime sponsor after the eighth legislative day. A bill containing an
18 appropriation clause may not be introduced after the eighth legislative day. No bill may
19 be introduced after the thirteenth legislative day, and no resolution, except those
20 resolutions described in subsection 3, may be introduced after the sixteenth legislative
21 day, except upon approval of a majority of the Delayed Bills Committee or upon
22 two-thirds vote of the members of the Senate present and voting.

23 2. No bill introduced at the request of an executive agency or the Supreme Court may be
24 introduced after the close of business on the day after the adjournment of the
25 organizational session before Thanksgiving Day in even-numbered years, except upon
26 approval of a majority of the Delayed Bills Committee.

27 3. Resolutions that propose amendments to the Constitution of North Dakota and
28 resolutions directing the Legislative Management to carry out a study may not be
29 introduced after the thirty-fourth twenty-seventh legislative day.

NOTE: This rule amendment changes the deadline for executive agencies or the Supreme Court to prefile bills from the day after the organizational session to the day before Thanksgiving Day. The rule amendment also changes the deadline for introducing study resolutions and resolutions proposing amendments to the Constitution of North Dakota from the 34th legislative day to the 27th legislative day.

1 **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Senate Rule 501 is amended as follows:

2 **501. StandingProcedural and standing committees.**

3 1. The Committee on Committees consists of eight members. The Majority Leader, by
4 virtue of office, is a member of the committee and shall serve as its chairman. The
5 Majority Leader shall appoint four other members from the majority party and three
6 members from the minority party to the committee. The committee shall appoint
7 standing committees concerned with matters in the fields as indicated and procedural
8 committeescommittee members to the Joint Policy Committee under Joint Rule 304
9 and may appoint replacement members to any committee in the event of an absence.

10 2. The five-day standing committee is Appropriations: (16 members) Bills and resolutions
11 referred or rereferred under Senate Rule 329. Except for the committee chairman,
12 each member of the committee must be appointed to one of the following divisions of
13 the committee which, for purposes of North Dakota Century Code Section 54-03-10,
14 are deemed standing committees:
15 a. Education and Environment.
16 b. Government Operations.
17 c. Human Resources.
18 3. The three-day standing committees are:
19 a. Education: (6 members)
20 Public Schools; Libraries; Institutions of Higher Learning.
21 b. Finance and Taxation: (6 members)
22 Public Debt; Taxes and Tax Laws.
23 c. Human Services: (6 members)
24 Human Services; Public Health; Public Safety.
25 d. Industry and Business: (5 members)
26 Banks and Banking; Corporations; Insurance; Matters pertaining to Private
27 Business and Industry.
28 e. Judiciary: (7 members)
29 Elections and Election Privileges; Judiciary.

4. The two-day standing committees are:

- a. Agriculture and Veterans Affairs: (6 members)
Agriculture; Livestock; Drainage and Irrigation; Warehouse and Grain Grading; Military and Veterans Affairs.
- b. Energy and Natural Resources: (6 members)
Game and Fish; Public Lands; Mines and Mining; Gas and Oil; Forestry.
- c. State and Local Government: (6 members)
Cities; Counties; Townships; Park Districts; Apportionment; State and Federal Affairs; Government Pensions and Benefits; Industrial Commission and institutions under its supervision; State Historical Society and State Parks.
- d. Transportation: (5 members)
Highways and Bridges; Railroads; Motor Vehicles; Airlines and Airports.
- e. Workforce Development: (6 members)
Occupations and Professions; Population; Workforce; Job Service North Dakota; Department of Commerce; Workforce Safety and Insurance; Workers' Compensation; Unemployment Compensation; Labor Laws and kindred subjects.

5. The procedural committees are:

- a. Arrangements for Senate Committee Rooms, to consist of three members.
- b. Correction and Revision of the Journal, to consist of three members.
- c. Delayed Bills, to consist of five members.
- d. Employment, to consist of five members.
- e. Inaugural Planning, to consist of three members.
- f.d. Rules, to consist of eight members.

6. When an executive nomination is received, the Committee on Committees shall appoint a select committee to consider it. The select committee shall meet and consider the nominee forthwith, and shall report its recommendations to the Senate.

NOTE: This rule amendment provides the Majority Leader shall appoint the members of the Joint Policy Committee and removes from operation during the special session the 5- and 3-day appropriations and standing committees and the Delayed Bills and Inaugural Planning Committees.

SECTION 9. AMENDMENT. Senate Rule 504 is amended as follows:

504. Committee meetings.

1. The Appropriations Committee meets on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of each week.
2. The three-day committees meet on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of each week.
3. The two-day committees meet on Thursday and Friday of each week.
4. The chairman of any committee, or a majority of that committee, may call meetings at times and on other days as deemed necessary.

NOTE: This rule amendment removes references to the meeting times of committees that have been suspended during the special session.

SECTION 10.* AMENDMENT. Senate Rule 509 is amended as follows:

509. Reporting of measures.

1. Except for an appropriations bill, a resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States or the Constitution of North Dakota, or a resolution directing an interim study by the Legislative Management, no Senate bill or resolution may not be held in a committee for more than thirty legislative days after it is referred to the committee, unless an extension of time is granted by the Senate.
2. Except for a bill introduced after the deadline for introducing bills, a resolution directing an interim study by the Legislative Management or a resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States or the Constitution of North Dakota, all Senate bills and resolutions must be reported back to the Senate no later than the thirty-fourth legislative day. A resolution directing an interim study by the Legislative Management or proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States or the Constitution of North Dakota must be reported back to the Senate no later than the fortieth legislative day.
3. A bill introduced after the deadline for introducing bills must be reported back to the Senate within five legislative days after the day of introduction.
4. A bill or resolution not reported back as required by this rule must automatically be placed on the calendar without recommendation.
5. House bills and resolutions must be reported back to the Senate by the sixty-third legislative day.
6. House bills received after the crossover deadline must be reported back to the Senate within five legislative days after the day of receipt.

NOTE: This rule amendment changes the deadline by which study resolutions and resolutions proposing an amendment to the United States Constitution or the

Constitution of North Dakota must be reported out of committee in the house of origin from the 40th legislative day to the 34th legislative day.

1 **SECTION 11. AMENDMENT.** Senate Rule 601 is amended as follows:

2 **601. Report of committees.**

3 1. The report of a committee must provide for one or more of the following
4 recommendations with respect to the bill or resolution: do pass, do not pass, be
5 amended, be rereferred to another committee, or be placed on the calendar without
6 recommendation. Additionally, the report of the committee must provide a statement of
7 whether the bill or resolution affects workforce development.

8 2. During the fifth order of business, the Secretary shall announce that committee reports
9 have been received, if such is the case, and shall list the bill or resolution number, or
10 other identifier, and state the accompanying committee recommendation. If the
11 committee report is divided pursuant to Senate Rule 602, the Secretary shall
12 announce the majority and minority report, or reports, as well.

13 3. a. If the committee report is for amendment, the proposed amendment must be
14 placed on the calendar ~~for the next legislative day on the sixth order of business.~~
15 ~~After the fifty-third legislative day, the proposed amendment must be placed on~~
16 ~~the calendar~~ on the sixth order of business immediately after the report of the
17 committee is received.

18 b. No action may be taken on an amendment until a verbatim copy of the
19 amendment has been distributed to each member; provided, that on a two-thirds
20 vote of the members-elect, this may be suspended, and the amendment acted on
21 immediately after the report of the committee.

22 c. If the amendment is adopted by a majority vote of the members present, the
23 amended measure must then be placed on the calendar ~~for the next legislative~~
24 day under the applicable order of business for second reading and final passage
25 except as provided in subdivision e ~~or g.~~

26 d. If the amendment is rejected, the measure without amendment must be placed
27 on the calendar ~~for the next legislative day~~ under the applicable order of business
28 for second reading and final passage except as provided in subdivision e ~~or g.~~

29 e. If the committee report is for amendment and then rereferral to another
30 committee, the measure must be rereferred to the appropriate committee after
31 adoption or rejection of the amendment. If, after adoption or rejection of the

1 amendment, a measure is subject to rereferral under Senate Rule 329, the
2 measure must be rereferred to the Joint Appropriations Committee, regardless of
3 whether the report provides for rereferral.

4 f. If the committee report does not recommend rereferral to another committee but
5 recommends that the measure pass, do not pass, or makes no recommendation,
6 the measure must be placed on the calendar ~~for the next legislative day~~ under
7 the applicable order of business for second reading and final passage ~~except as~~
8 ~~provided in subdivision g.~~

9 g. ~~On motion~~Except as provided under subdivision e, a measure must be placed on
10 the calendar for second reading and final passage immediately after action is
11 taken on the amendment. ~~If the committee report recommends that the measure~~
12 ~~be placed on the calendar for second reading and final passage immediately~~
13 ~~after action is taken on the amendment, the measure must be placed on the~~
14 ~~calendar for second reading and final passage immediately after the amendment~~
15 ~~is adopted. After the thirtieth legislative day all Senate bills, and after the fifty-third~~
16 ~~legislative day all measures, must be placed on the calendar for second reading~~
17 ~~and final passage immediately after action is taken on the amendment. Without~~
18 ~~objection a measure placed on the calendar under this subdivision must be acted~~
19 ~~on immediately after placement on the calendar.~~

20 h. A report for amendment must be approved as to form and style by the Legislative
21 Council staff. When a report for amendment is received by the Secretary without
22 a notation that the report was approved as to form and style by the Legislative
23 Council staff, the Secretary immediately shall cause that report to be delivered to
24 the Legislative Council office with a request that the report be examined and
25 receive a notation approving its form and style.

26 4. If the committee report is divided as provided in Senate Rule 602, the reports must be
27 placed on the calendar ~~for the next legislative day~~ on the seventh order of business.
28 The presiding officer shall receive and announce a motion that the report of the
29 minority be substituted for the majority committee report. If the minority report is
30 adopted, that report is substituted for the majority report and must be placed on the
31 calendar on the eleventh or fourteenth order of business. If the minority report is not
32 adopted, the majority report is deemed adopted and must be placed on the calendar

1 on the eleventh or fourteenth order of business. If a "do not pass" report is adopted
2 under this subsection, the measure must be placed on the calendar on the eleventh or
3 fourteenth order of business. If no report is adopted under this subsection, the
4 measure must be placed on the calendar on the eleventh or fourteenth order of
5 business unless the measure is subject to rereferral under Senate Rule 329.
6 5. ~~The~~if practicable, the Secretary shall ensure that the daily calendar contains
7 appropriate notation of committee reports.

NOTE: This rule amendment allows for immediate action on amendments and second reading after adoption or rejection of amendments without motions. The references to subdivision g as an exception are deleted because subdivision g (immediate second reading) becomes the rule rather than the exception.

8 **SECTION 12. AMENDMENT.** Joint Rule 202 is amended as follows:

9 **202. Receding before conference.** Either house may recede from any subject matter of
10 difference existing between the two houses at any time before a conference whether the papers
11 on which the difference has arisen are before the house receding formally or informally, and a
12 majority of the members-elect governs, except in a case where two-thirds of the members-elect
13 is required by the Constitution, and the question having been put and lost, may ~~not~~ be again put
14 the same day, and the consideration thereof in other respects is regulated by the rules of the
15 respective houses.

NOTE: This rule amendment removes the requirement for a day to pass before a question may be reconsidered with respect to an issue that would go to a conference committee.

16 **SECTION 13.* AMENDMENT.** Joint Rule 203 is amended as follows:

17 **203. Limitation on messaging of measures - Crossover days.**

18 1. A bill or resolution that has passed one house may not be sent to the other house for
19 concurrence after the thirty-seventh legislative day, except a bill or resolution approved
20 for introduction after the deadline for introduction of bills or resolutions.
21 2. A resolution that has passed one house may not be sent to the other house for
22 concurrence after the forty-third legislative day, except a resolution approved for
23 introduction after the deadline for introduction of that type of resolution.

NOTE: This rule amendment moves the crossover date for resolutions from the 43rd legislative day to the 37th legislative day, to align with the crossover date for bills.

24 **SECTION 14. AMENDMENT.** Joint Rule 207 is amended as follows:

25 **207. Consideration of items on consent calendar.**

1 1. No item on the consent calendar may be considered for adoption on the same
2 legislative day it is placed on the consent calendar.

3 2. Bills or resolutions on the consent calendar are not debatable, except that the
4 presiding officer shall allow a reasonable time for questions from the floor and shall
5 permit the proponents of the bills or resolutions to answer the questions.

6 3.2. The question of the final passage of more than one item contained on the consent
7 calendar may be voted on in a single vote if the vote is on either bills or resolutions
8 and not on any combination thereof in the same vote.

9 4.3. Immediately before voting on the first consent calendar bills or resolutions, the
10 presiding officer shall call to the attention of the members the fact that the next vote
11 will be the vote on the bills or resolutions on the consent calendar. A recorded roll call
12 vote is necessary on items on the consent calendar only if a recorded roll call vote is
13 required under Senate or House Rule 341.

NOTE: This rule amendment removes the prohibition on considering measures on the same day they are reported from committee.

14 **SECTION 15.** Joint Rule 303 is created as follows:

15 **303. Joint Appropriations Committee.**

16 1. A Joint Appropriations Committee must be appointed during a special session.

17 2. The committee consists of thirty-nine members, the twenty-three members from the
18 House who served on the Appropriations Committee during the most recent legislative
19 session and the sixteen members from the Senate who served on the Appropriations
20 Committee during the most recent legislative session. In the event a member who
21 served on the Appropriations Committee during the most recent legislative session is
22 no longer a member of the Legislative Assembly, the respective house's Majority
23 Leader may appoint a substitute member to serve on the committee. The first-named
24 member from each house is co-chairman of the committee.

25 3. The presiding officer shall refer to the committee all bills and resolutions that serve
26 primarily to provide an appropriation. The committee shall meet at the call of the
27 co-chairmen. For each bill under consideration by the committee, the co-chairman
28 from the house of introduction of the bill shall preside. Members of the committee are
29 excused from attending a meeting of any other committee while the members are
30 attending a meeting of the Joint Appropriations Committee.

1 4. The committee shall issue joint reports on the measures referred to it, with a report
2 first being presented to the house having possession of the measure, and later
3 presented to the other house if appropriate. A majority of each house's committee
4 members must approve a recommendation before the committee may issue a joint
5 report.

6 5. If there is a successful division or floor amendment in the house of introduction after
7 the joint report is reported out of the joint committee, a bill messaged to the second
8 house must be rereferred to the joint committee by the second house.

NOTE: This rule creates a 39-member Joint Appropriations Committee, comprised of the members who served on the House and Senate Appropriations Committees during the regular session, or appointed by the Majority Leader in the event of a vacancy. The committee shall hold joint hearings on bills and resolutions that serve primarily to provide an appropriation and shall meet at the call of the co-chairmen. The committee shall issue joint reports, which must be approved by a majority of each house's members, presented first to the bill's house of introduction. The committee is not required to meet after issuing a joint report unless the bill is subject to a successful division or floor amendment in the house of introduction.

9 **SECTION 16.** Joint Rule 304 is created as follows:

10 **304. Joint Policy Committee.**

11 1. A Joint Policy Committee must be appointed during a special session.
12 2. The committee consists of twenty-eight members, fourteen from the House and
13 fourteen from the Senate, appointed by the Majority Leader in each house. The first-
14 named member from each house is co-chairman of the committee.
15 3. The presiding officer shall refer all bills and resolutions not referred to the Joint
16 Appropriations Committee to the Joint Policy Committee. The committee shall meet at
17 the call of the co-chairmen. For each bill under consideration by the committee, the
18 co-chairman from the house of introduction of the bill shall preside. Members of the
19 committee are excused from attending a meeting of any other committee while the
20 members are attending a meeting of the Joint Policy Committee.
21 4. The committee shall issue joint reports on the measures referred to it, with a report
22 first being presented to the house having possession of the measure, and later
23 presented to the other house if appropriate. A majority of each house's committee
24 members must approve a recommendation before the committee may issue a joint
25 report.

1 5. If there is a successful division or floor amendment in the house of introduction after
2 the joint report is reported out of the joint committee, a bill messaged to the second
3 house must be rereferred to the joint committee by the second house.

NOTE: This rule creates a 28-member Joint Policy Committee, comprised of members appointed by the Majority Leader in each house. The committee shall hold joint hearings on bills and resolutions not referred to the Joint Appropriations Committee and shall meet at the call of the co-chairmen. The committee shall issue joint reports, which must be approved by a majority of each house's members, presented first to the bill's house of introduction. The committee is not required to meet after issuing a joint report unless the bill is subject to a successful division or floor amendment in the house of introduction.

4 **SECTION 17. Joint Rule 305 is created as follows:**

5 **305. Remote testimony and participation.** The Joint Appropriations Committee and the
6 Joint Policy Committee shall allow remote testimony during committee meetings. Committee
7 members may participate remotely upon approval from the Majority Leader of the Senate or the
8 Speaker of the House.

NOTE: This rule requires the joint committees to allow remote testimony and allows members of either joint committee to participate remotely if the member receives approval from the Majority Leader of the Senate or the Speaker of the House.

9 **SECTION 18. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 4 of Joint Rule 501 is amended as follows:

10 4. a. The agency or department preparing the fiscal note for a bill or resolution as
11 introduced shall complete and return the fiscal note to the Legislative Council not
12 later than five daysone day from the date of the request. The agency or
13 department preparing the fiscal note for an amended bill or resolution shall
14 complete and return the fiscal note to the Legislative Council not later than one
15 day from the date of the request.
16 b. The Legislative Council shall provide an electronic copy of the fiscal note to the
17 Office of Management and Budget and the Governor. The Legislative Council
18 shall make an electronic or paper copy of the fiscal note available to the
19 Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House.

NOTE: This rule amendment shortens the length of time for an agency or department to respond to a fiscal note request from 5 days to 1 day.

20 **SECTION 19. SUSPENSION.** Senate Rules 338, 403, 502, and 509 are suspended.

NOTE: This provision suspends for the duration of the special session the rules relating to the requirement for all bills and resolutions to be placed on the calendar for second reading after the 53rd legislative day (Senate Rule 338), the operation of the Delayed Bills Committee (Senate Rule 403), the requirement for each member except the Majority Leader and Assistant Majority Leader to serve on two standing committees (Senate Rule 502), and the requirement for Senate bills and resolutions to be reported back to the Senate no later than the 34th legislative day and House bills and resolutions

to be reported back to the Senate no later than the 63rd legislative day (Senate Rule 509).

1 **SECTION 20. EFFECTIVE DATE.** The amendments to Senate Rules 402 and 509 and
2 Joint Rule 203, in Sections 7, 10, and 13 of this rules amendment, become effective upon the
3 conclusion of the 69th special session of the Legislative Assembly, convening on January 21,
4 2026.

***NOTE:** This delayed effective date applies to changing the deadline for agency prefiling to the day before Thanksgiving Day and changing the introduction date for constitutional amendments and study resolutions from the 34th legislative day to the 27th legislative day (Senate Rule 402), changing the date resolutions must be reported out of committee in the first house from the 40th legislative day to the 34th legislative day (Senate Rule 509), and changing the crossover date for resolutions from the 43rd legislative day to the 37th legislative day, to align with the crossover date for bills (Joint Rule 203).