

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS OF JOINT RULE 301

1     **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Joint Rule 301 is amended as follows:

2     **301. Conference committees.**

- 3     1. In every case of a difference between the two houses arising from a refusal by one  
4       house to concur in amendments made by the other house, if either house requests a  
5       conference on the difference that has arisen and appoints a committee for that  
6       purpose, the other house shall also appoint such a committee.
- 7     2. The committees so appointed shall meet within two legislative days of appointment at  
8       the hour and place agreed on by the chairmen. A conference committee consisting of  
9       members from a three-day committee shall meet on Mondays, Wednesdays, and  
10      Fridays, and a conference committee consisting of members from a two-day  
11      committee shall meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The chairmen may call meetings  
12      on other days as deemed necessary. The chairmen shall have the time and place of  
13      the meeting posted before the meeting, or the chairmen shall announce the time and  
14      place of the meeting to their respective houses.
- 15    3. The committees so appointed shall state to each other, verbally, or in writing, as either  
16      may choose, the reasons of their respective houses, and confer thereon; and they  
17      may report, in the manner set out below, to their respective houses regarding the  
18      manner in which they recommend that the difference between the two houses should  
19      be resolved.
- 20    4. The chairman of the conference committee representing the house of origin of the bill  
21      or resolution under consideration shall ensure that minutes of the meetings of the  
22      conference committee be kept in the same manner as other standing committee  
23      minutes.
- 24    5. Conference committees appointed pursuant to this rule shall confine their conferences  
25      and recommendations to consideration of the general differences that gave rise to the  
26      appointment of the committees, and in no event may a conference committee submit a  
27      divided report.
- 28    6. The conference committee report shall first be submitted to the house having  
29      possession of the bill or resolution over which the difference has arisen. The house

- 1 shall act on the report and, if appropriate, shall proceed to take action on the bill or  
2 resolution.
- 3 7. After action on the report and, if appropriate, on the bill or resolution, the house having  
4 possession of the bill shall transmit the bill or resolution to the other house for  
5 appropriate action.
- 6 8. If the house having possession of the bill rejects the conference committee report but  
7 desires continued conference, that house shall discharge its conference committee,  
8 appoint a new conference committee, and notify the other house of its action.

**NOTE:** This proposed amendment is in response to a question during the 2011 legislative session as to whether rejection of a conference committee should result in discharge of the conference committee and appointment of a new conference committee.

Joint Rule 301 is silent as to the effect rejection of a conference committee report on continuation of the conference committee.

*Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure*, Section 771(6), provides:

When the conference committees are unable to agree, that fact should be reported to the houses. The committee should then be discharged and a new conference may be appointed in the same manner as the original committee. Also, when for any reason either house refuses to adopt the report of the committee, the committee should be discharged and a new committee of conference or free conference appointed.