



**Office of
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Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

For Immediate Release

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Rep. Kane supports proposed rules changes promoting increased transparency for legislative committees

BOSTON – State Representative Hannah Kane (R-Shrewsbury) recently voted to support a series of proposed amendments to the rules that will govern joint committees of the Massachusetts House and Senate for the 2021-2022 legislative session.

During floor debate in the House of Representatives on February 24, Representative Kane supported several amendments designed to promote increased transparency and accountability in the committee process, but which were ultimately not adopted as part of the rules package. She cast votes in support of rules changes that would:

- require 1 weeks' notice for the posting of committee hearings and executive sessions, rather than the 72 hours required in the proposed joint rules;
- mandate the posting of all members' recorded votes on committee roll calls and polls on the General Court website;
- make public testimony provided to committees available upon request;
- require Conference Committee reports to be made available to the public and to legislators for a minimum of 72 hours before being voted on; and
- provide a two-hour window for members to review bills being polled for release from committee to give members enough time to make an informed decision prior to voting.

Representative Kane also voted to support a proposed amendment that would have required all procurements by the House Business Manager or the Chief Financial Officer of the Senate totaling over \$10,000 to be submitted to the state Comptroller and posted on the state's Open Checkbook website.

None of the amendments garnered enough support to pass, prompting Representative Kane to vote against the proposed joint rules package, which passed on a vote of 128-31.

The Senate previously approved its own version of the joint rules on February 11. Both branches will now work to reconcile the differences between the two versions to produce a final set of rules governing the conduct of joint legislative committees over the next two years.

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