

**JOINT RULES  
FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS IN THE TWO  
HOUSES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE STATE OF INDIANA**

1. After a bill or resolution has passed one house and before it shall be transmitted to the other house for further action, it shall be the duty of the author to furnish to the clerk of the house of origin a card bearing the name of the party selected as sponsor in the other house, which card shall be attached to the bill and transmitted therewith.

2. (a) After a bill or joint resolution shall have passed both houses it shall be duly enrolled on paper, and the clerk of the house where it originated shall certify over his or her signature upon the back thereof the house in which it originated, the dates upon which it passed the House and Senate, respectively, and the number of votes cast for and against it in each house.

(b) Every enrolled bill or joint resolution shall be printed in enrolled act form. The session of the General Assembly shall be indicated on the face of such printed enrollment. In the case of enrolled bills proposing to amend any then existing Indiana statute, the text shall reflect any change from the text of the then existing statute. This shall be accomplished by the use of bold face type to indicate the addition of new material to the text of the then existing statute, and canceled type to indicate the deletion of existing material.

3. Every bill or joint resolution, after having been enrolled, shall be examined by the Committee on Rules and Legislative Procedures of the house in which it originated, which shall compare the enrolled copy with the engrossed copy, or cause the author thereof to do so, taking special care that the engrossed amendments adopted by either house, if any there be, shall have been properly incorporated in said enrolled copy and shall report in writing to said house any errors therein.

4. (a) Every bill or joint resolution reported to have been duly enrolled shall be signed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives

and the President and President Pro Tempore of the Senate. After which, every bill shall be presented by the Secretary of the Senate or the Clerk of the House of Representatives to the Governor for his signature.

(b) Except as provided in this rule, all bills and joint resolutions shall be signed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate, in their houses respectively, when in session.

(c) During a recess period, the Speaker and the President of the Senate may sign bills and resolutions in their respective offices.

5. A record of all bills and resolutions signed, whether in session or during a recess, shall be kept in the Journals of each house.

6. When any paper or papers, proper to be acted upon by both houses, shall come before either, the house before which such paper or papers are laid shall, after acting thereupon, lay it or them before the other house.

7. (a) In every case of an amendment of a bill agreed to in one house, and dissented to in the other, either house may request a conference and appoint a committee for that purpose; the other house may also appoint a committee. A conference committee shall consist of two members from each house; one member from the house in which the bill or resolution originated shall be named as chairman by the appointing authority of the house of origination.

(b) Conferees shall state to each other verbally or in writing, as either shall choose, the reason of their respective houses for and against the amendment, and confer freely thereon and report to each house their proceedings thereon. Meetings of conference committees shall be held at a convenient hour agreed upon by the conferees and shall be open to the public, whenever feasible, in which event, notice shall be posted before such meeting in accordance with the rules of the house in which the bill originated. It is the intent of this joint rule to provide public access to the legislative process without hindering, intimidating or disrupting that process.

8. In all cases where the Doorkeeper of one house shall, by reason of official engagement, or other causes, be unable to execute the

commands or process of the house of which he is an officer, it shall be the duty of the Doorkeeper of the other house to execute such commands, together with such process as may be directed to him by the presiding officer thereof.

9. A joint standing committee to be called the Committee on Joint Rules shall be appointed, to consist of four Senators, not more than two of whom shall be from the same political party, four Representatives, not more than two of whom shall be from the same political party, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, which last two officers shall be ex officio members of the Committee.

10. All joint conventions shall be held in the hall of the House of Representatives unless a different place shall be designated in the resolution by which such joint convention is convened. All such joint conventions shall be presided over by the President of the Senate, or if for any reason the President of the Senate be absent or decline to preside, then the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall preside.

11. In all joint conventions and joint meetings of the two houses no business shall be transacted other than that for which they were assembled.

12. When a message is sent to the Senate or to the House of Representatives, it shall be delivered in written or electronic form to the Secretary of the Senate or the Clerk of the House, who shall deliver such message to the Chair.

13. Messages shall be sent by such persons as the President Pro Tempore of the Senate or Speaker of the House may designate for that purpose.

14. When bills which have passed one house are ordered to be printed in the other, a greater number of copies shall not be printed than may be necessary for the use of the house making the order.

15. *This rule was deemed obsolete and removed in 2017.*

16. Any proposed amendments to these rules shall be referred to the Committee on Joint Rules.

17. The Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall at the time of delivery of the enrolled acts and resolutions for the signature of the presiding officer leave with the minute clerk a copy of a written message setting out the numbers of the enrolled acts or resolutions so submitted.

18. A motion to recess for more than three days shall be deemed to have failed unless approved by a majority of the members elected in each house. Such majority shall be established by roll call vote.

19. The joint rules, upon adoption, shall govern the General Assembly for the term of that General Assembly unless suspended or amended.

20. If:

(1) two bills amending the same section of the Indiana Code are approved in the same session of the General Assembly, and neither bill recognizes the existence of the other;

(2) one bill amends a section of the Indiana Code and another bill repeals that section with an effective date preceding the effective date of the amendment; or

(3) two bills each add a new provision to the Indiana Code at the same code citation without either bill recognizing the addition made by the other and both bills are approved in the same session of the General Assembly; one of the two bills may be corrected at enrollment to recognize the existence of the other by the Committee on Rules and Legislative Procedures of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Legislative Procedure of the Senate. However, a correction under this rule is limited to the extent necessary to resolve the technical conflict and may not be made unless the report of each of the two committees includes the written consent of the respective committee's ranking minority member. In addition, the committee report in each house must include the written consent of the corrected bill's author or sponsor, as the case may be, in that house. A technical conflict is one that does not change the substance of either bill. It is at the discretion of both the Committee on Rules and Legislative Procedures of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Legislative Procedure of the Senate as to whether a conflict is technical.

21. If a bill is passed which clearly expresses the intent that a SECTION thereof becomes effective on a date other than the standard statutory effective date set forth in the Indiana Code, but does not use the technical emergency provision for such effective date, then the Rules and Legislative Procedures Committee of the House of Representatives and the Rules and Legislative Procedure Committee of the Senate may correct the bill at enrollment to include the technical emergency provision for the expressed effective date. For the correction to be made, each House must adopt a committee report setting forth the correction and containing the written consent of the Chairperson and ranking minority member of the Rules Committee of that House and the author or sponsor of the bill in that House.