Overview

- 194th General Court
- Two-year terms for Senators and Representatives
- Full-time, one of ten nationwide
- House has 160 members
- Senate has 40 members
- approx. 8,000 bills filed

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MASSACHUSETTS

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The 194th General Court of t
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The 194th General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

April 12, 2025 | 34°F

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Legislators

Senate

All Senators
Senate Clerk

House of Representatives

All Representatives
House Clerk

New Districts

Find My Legislator

Hearings & Events

	Date	Time	Event Title	Location
Upcoming	Monday, Apr. 14	10:00 AM	*Joint Committee on Elder Affairs* New	A-1
Upcoming	Monday, Apr. 14	10:00 AM	*Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure* New	A-2 and Virtual
Upcoming	Monday, Apr. 14	11:00 AM	*Senate Session* New	Senate Chamber
Upcoming	Monday, Apr. 14	11:00 AM	*Informal House Session* New	House Chamber
Upcoming	Monday, Apr. 14	1:00 PM	*Joint Committee on Housing* New	B-1
Upcoming	Monday, Apr. 14	1:00 PM	*Joint Committee on Public Service* New	A-1 and Virtual
	Tuesday, Apr. 15	10:00 AM	*Joint Committee on Financial Services* New	A-2

View all Upcoming Hearings & Events ›

Bills & Laws

Bills
General Laws
Session Laws
Constitution

FY 2026 Budget

Governor's Budget → House Ways & Means Budget → House Debate → House Budget → Senate Ways & Means Budget → Senate Debate → Senate Budget → Conference Committee → Final Budget

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Hearings & Events
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Newton City Hall
Status: Completed
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APR 8 TUESDAY

10:00 AM Joint Committee on Revenue
A-1 and Virtual
Status: Completed
Archived

10:00 AM Continuing Care Retirement Communities
Virtual Hearing
Status: Completed
Archived

11:00 AM *Joint Committee on Ways and Means*
Gardner Auditorium and Virtual
Status: Confirmed
Archived

1:00 PM Joint Committee on the Judiciary
A-2 and Virtual
Status: Completed
Archived

1:00 PM Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
A-1 and Virtual
Status: Completed
Archived

3:00 PM 250th Anniversary Celebration of the American Revolution
Virtual Hearing
Status: Completed
Archived

APR 9 WEDNESDAY

10:00 AM Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
A-1 & A-2
Status: Completed
Archived

10:30 AM Joint Committee on Cannabis Policy
B-1 and Virtual
Status: Completed
Archived

11:00 AM Formal House Session 33
House Chamber
Status: Completed
Archived

1:00 PM Joint Committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity
A-1 and Virtual
Status: Completed
Archived

1:00 PM Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight
A-2 and Virtual
Status: Completed
Archived

APR 10 THURSDAY

11:00 AM Senate Session
Senate Chamber
Status: Completed
Archived

11:00 AM Informal House Session 34
House Chamber
Status: Completed
Archived

1:00 PM Special Legislative Commission on Emerging Firearm Technology
A-2/Virtual
Status: Completed
Archived

1:00 PM Joint Committee on Transportation
A-1 and Virtual
Status: Completed
Archived

APR 14 MONDAY

10:00 AM Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure
A-2 and Virtual
Status: Confirmed
Upcoming

10:00 AM Joint Committee on Elder Affairs
A-1
Status: Confirmed
Upcoming

11:00 AM Senate Session
Senate Chamber
Status: Confirmed
Upcoming

11:00 AM Informal House Session
House Chamber
Status: Confirmed
Upcoming

1:00 PM Joint Committee on Housing
B-1
Status: Confirmed
Upcoming

1:00 PM Joint Committee on Public Service
A-1 and Virtual
Status: Confirmed
Upcoming

APR 15 TUESDAY

10:00 AM Joint Committee on Financial Services

APR 16 WEDNESDAY

11:00 AM *Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce*

APR 17 THURSDAY

11:00 AM Special Legislative Commission on Emerging

Senate Leadership

Senate President Karen Spilka

Majority Leader Cindy Creem

Minority Leader Bruce Tarr

House Leadership

House Speaker Ronald Mariano

Majority Leader Mike Moran

Minority Leader Bradley Jones Jr.

How a Bill Becomes a Law

- Filed in House and/or Senate: docket number
- Cosponsors requested until bill first committee vote
- Assigned to a joint committee: bill #
    - Every time a bill changes, it is assigned a new #
- Receives public hearing with in-person and written testimony accepted
- Committee can accept as is, rewrite entirely, or come up with a single bill combining several bills on a topic

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Committee Reports

- Favorably, ought to pass
- Sent to study
- Ought not to pass
  - Re-filed next session
- Receives extension to a new reporting date
  - sometimes several extensions

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If reported *favorably*

- Sent to *second* committee:
  - Ways and Means if it costs $$
  - Healthcare Financing if related to healthcare and it costs $$
  - Steering and Policy Committee if no $$

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Second committee

- Moves to a floor vote of entire body
- Legislators can file, debate, and vote on amendments to the bill
- When a bill is scheduled for the “orders of the day” likely to get a floor vote shortly
- Moves to the other chamber to undergo same process

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Conference committee

- Three House members
  - Two from leadership and ranking minority member
- Three Senate members
  - Two from leadership and ranking minority member
- Members cannot discuss negotiations with public
- Yes or No vote of entire final report by each branch
- No amendments can be added

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Three readings recap

- First Reading
  - Committee Report delivered by House/Senate Clerk
- Second Reading
  - After Steering and Policy or Ways and Means and then
  - Placed in the Orders of the Day
- Third Reading: Committee on Bills in Third Reading
  - Final review for any legal issues
- Engrossment
- Enactment

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Governor's Desk

- Sign it into law
  - Takes effect in 90 days without an Emergency Preamble
- Veto it outright
- Recommend changes
- Pocket veto: if Gov doesn't sign it as formal session ends
- Legislature can override veto with 2/3 majority

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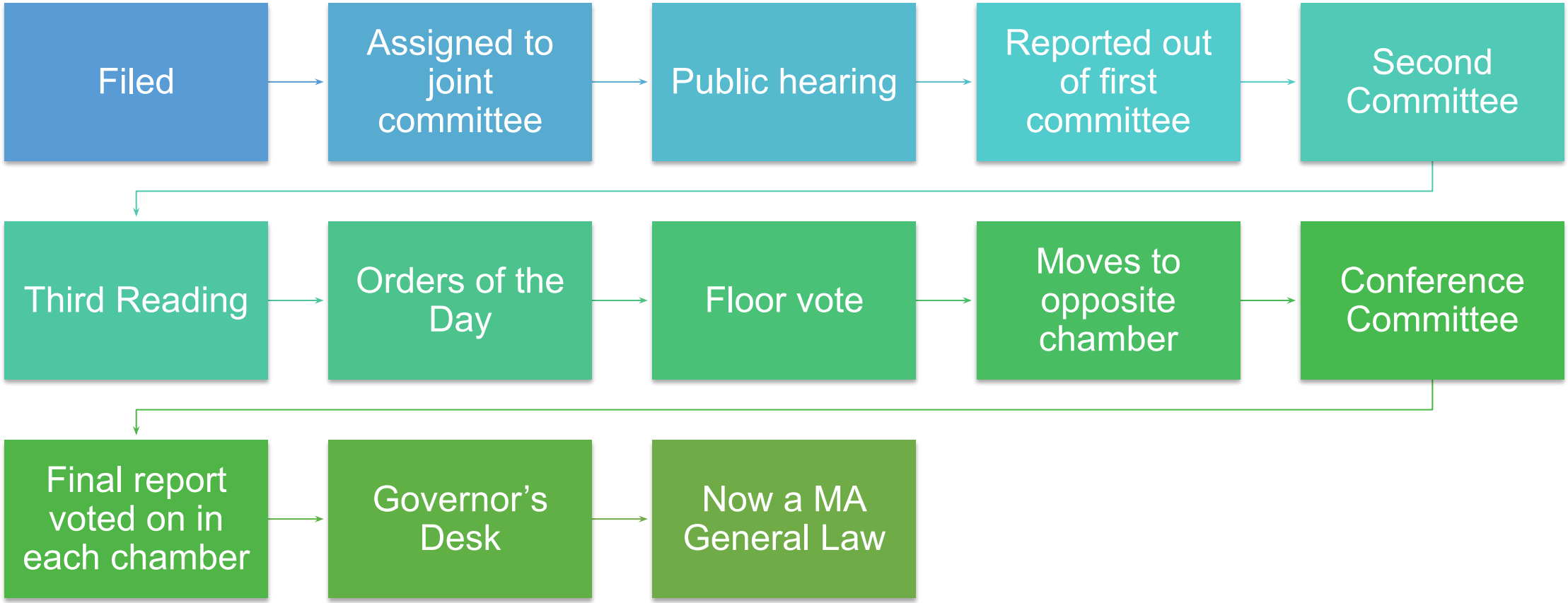
Steps



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Key asks of legislators

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