

# STATE OF MAINE

In Senate \_\_\_\_\_

**ORDERED**, the House concurring, that the Joint Rules be amended by amending Joint Rule 308, subsection 1 to read:

**1. Suggested Reference by Secretary and Clerk.** At the direction of the presiding officers, ~~when the Legislature is in session~~, the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House shall jointly suggest an appropriate committee reference for every bill, resolve and petition offered. In determining the appropriate committee reference, the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House shall consider the request of the sponsor of the bill, resolve or petition, if that request has been made in writing to the Secretary or Clerk prior to the determination. The suggested reference must be placed upon the Advance Journal and Calendar of each chamber. ~~If they the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House are unable to agree~~, the question of reference must be referred to a conference of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. Upon their agreement, the suggested reference must be placed upon the Advance Journal and Calendar of each chamber. If they are unable to agree, the question of suggested reference must be referred to the Legislative Council for resolution. Upon the decision of the Legislative Council, the suggested reference must be placed upon the Advance Journal and Calendar of each chamber.

Each suggested reference appearing upon the Advance Journal and Calendar of each chamber must contain a recommendation for the printing of the document being referred and may contain a recommendation on the number of copies of that document to be printed.

Any member may move for reconsideration of a committee reference on the floor. Notwithstanding Joint Rule 103, a majority vote is necessary to overturn the original committee of reference.

; and be it further

**ORDERED**, the House concurring, that the Joint Rules be amended by amending Joint Rule 308, subsection 2 to read:

**2. Reference to Committee by Secretary and Clerk in Cases of Disagreement with Suggested Reference.** ~~When the Legislature is not in session or is in recess, the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House may refer the bills to the appropriate joint standing committee for public hearing and order printing, subject to the approval of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.~~

Upon reference of a bill to a committee by the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House pursuant to this subsection 1, if a majority of the chairs and leads of the committee agree, in advance of scheduling the bill for public hearing, that the reference to that committee is inappropriate, a communication must be sent to the Senate and House with a recommendation of "change of committee reference." Upon reference of a bill to a committee pursuant to this subsection, if a majority of the chairs and leads of the committee agree, in advance of scheduling the bill for public hearing, that the reference to that committee is appropriate, that bill remains in that committee. If there is not a majority agreement among the chairs and leads regarding reference of that bill, the bill is designated for discussion by the committee for a possible committee report of "refer to another committee" under Joint Rule 310, subsection 2.

Any bill that undergoes a reference determination pursuant to this subsection that is retained by the committee must be scheduled for a public hearing.

**SPONSORED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**(Senator BENNETT, R.)**

**COUNTY: Oxford**