



Beacon Hill Compliance Tracker

Measuring Massachusetts Legislative Transparency

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This brief examines how hearing notice patterns changed before and after the June 26 rule update in the 194th General Court (2025–26). The goal is to highlight measurable shifts in advance notice across committees and to clarify how the new 10-day notice requirement affected the timelines the public ultimately received. This analysis provides a structured way to assess how rule changes translate into real-world notice outcomes.

Key findings:

1. Nearly every committee showed a marked increase in adequate notice (≥ 10 days) after the rule change, with several shifting from near-zero rates to consistent compliance.
2. A small number of committees exhibited minimal change, suggesting established posting habits were already aligned with the new requirements.
3. The magnitude of improvement varies significantly by committee, offering a rare empirical look at how institutional rules can reshape posting practices in practice.

(“Adequate notice” is defined as hearings announced at least 10 days in advance. The Beacon Hill Compliance Tracker exempts hearing notices before the date the rule took effect; this brief explores how the rule changed behavior using 10 days’ notice as a focal point.)

These results reflect structural patterns in committee workflows rather than judgments about intent, legislative content, or quality of work.

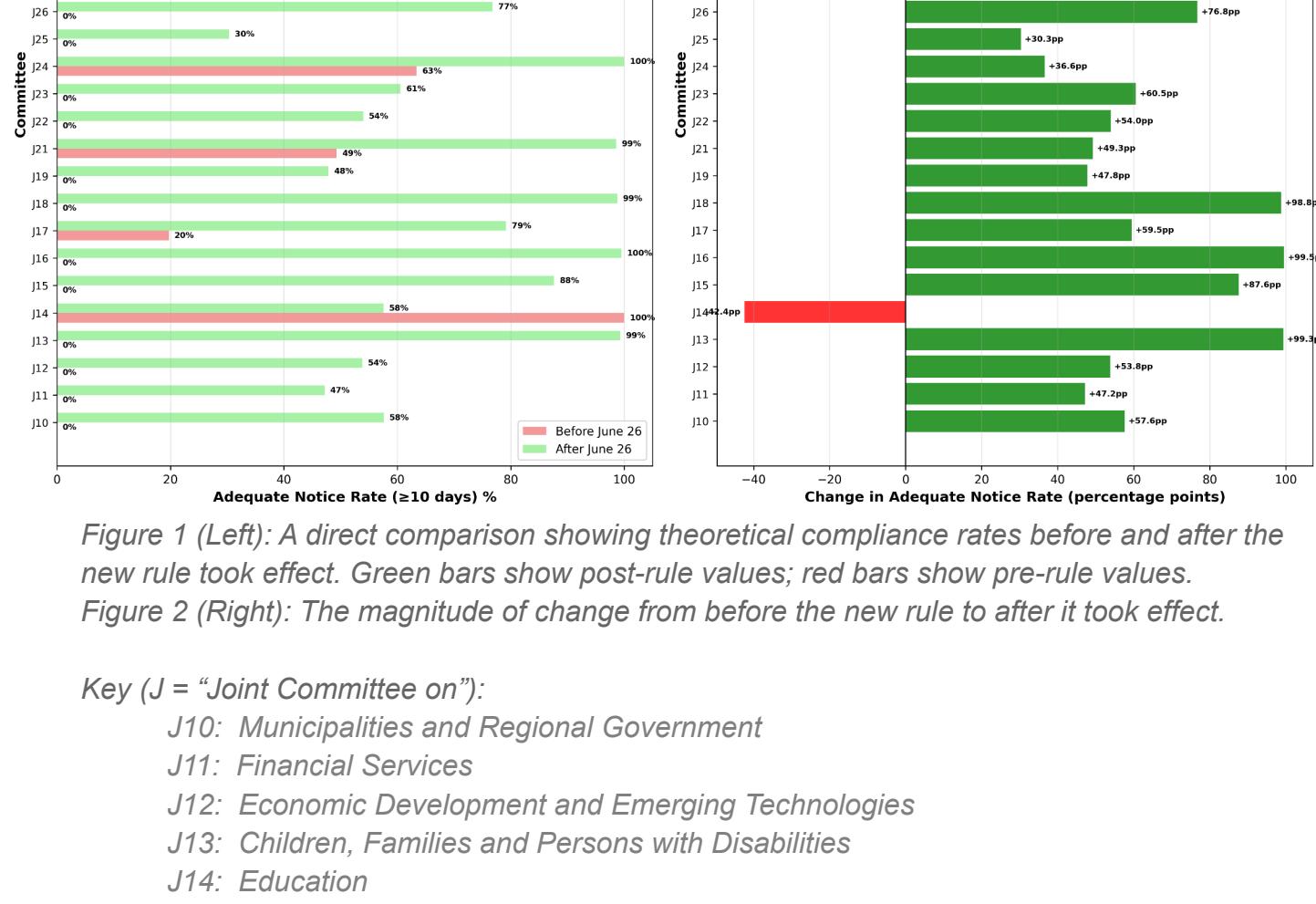


Figure 1 (Left): A direct comparison showing theoretical compliance rates before and after the new rule took effect. Green bars show post-rule values; red bars show pre-rule values.

Figure 2 (Right): The magnitude of change from before the new rule to after it took effect.

Key (J = “Joint Committee on”):

- J10: Municipalities and Regional Government
- J11: Financial Services
- J12: Economic Development and Emerging Technologies
- J13: Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities
- J14: Education
- J15: Election Laws
- J16: Public Health
- J17: Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure
- J18: Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery
- J19: the Judiciary
- J21: Environment and Natural Resources
- J22: Public Safety and Homeland Security
- J23: Public Service
- J24: Health Care Financing
- J25: State Administration and Regulatory Oversight
- J26: Revenue
- J27: Transportation
- J28: Housing
- J29: Higher Education
- J30: Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development
- J31: Veterans and Federal Affairs
- J32: Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets
- J33: Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity
- J34: Racial Equity, Civil Rights, and Inclusion
- J37: Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy
- J39: Ways and Means
- J40: Rules
- J43: Labor and Workforce Development
- J45: Agriculture and Fisheries
- J46: Aging and Independence
- J47: Community Development and Small Businesses
- J50: Cannabis Policy
- J52: Emergency Preparedness and Management

Analysis based on bill-level metadata scraped from official public legislative sources as of December 13, 2025 using version 1.2.2 of the Tracker.

Deadline compliance is computed using a chronology-based algorithm applied consistently across all cases; irregularities in the underlying data make the resulting values standardized estimates rather than exact measures.

For further information collected by the Beacon Hill Compliance Tracker, please visit <https://beaconhilltracker.org/>.

For further questions, please contact info@beaconhilltracker.org.