



Beacon Hill Compliance Tracker

Measuring Massachusetts Legislative Transparency

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Anatomy of Non-Compliance, #3:

Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies

How opaque legacy workflows cascade into systemic non-compliance

Introduction

This brief examines the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies (EDET) as measured by the Tracker as of February 15, 2026 in the 194th General Court (2025–26). This committee is one of only a small handful of committees the Tracker gives a 0.00% compliance rating to, yet handles one of the smallest number of bills by quantity. Unchanged legacy workflows which the new 2025 Joint Rules were meant to address can cascade into total non-compliance, resulting in reduced transparency outcomes for the general public.

I. Committee Overview

	House	Senate
Chair	Carole A. Fiola	Barry R. Finegold
Vice Chair	Jessica Ann Giannino	Nick Collins
Compliance Rate	0.00%	
Total Bills	45	
Summary Violations	0	
Report-Out Violations	33	
Notice Violations	12	
Vote Violations	42	

EDET succeeds in posting summaries 100% of the time for all bills, a positive for transparency and accessibility. However, repeated violations of the 10 days' notice rule combined with frequent lapses in vote record postings create end-to-end difficulties for constituents seeking greater participation and information in the legislative process.

II. Pattern Analysis

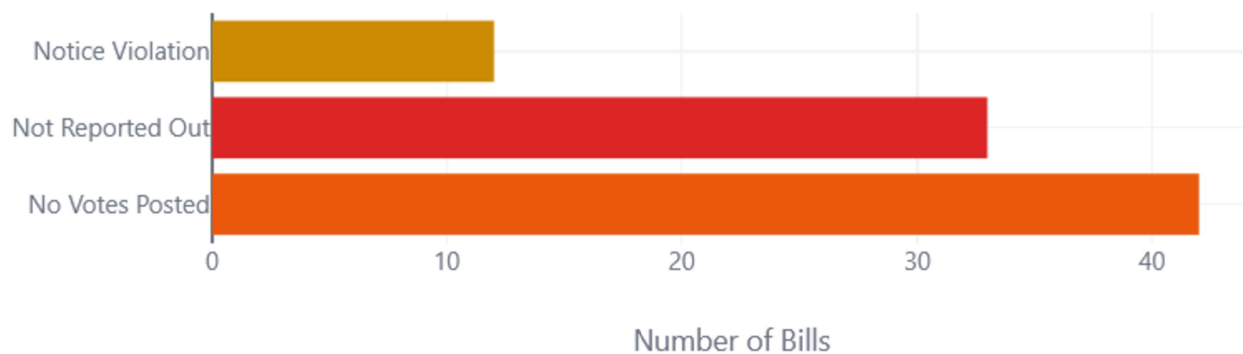


Figure 1: Instances of non-compliance by violation type and bill count

Violations of the Joint and House Rules on behalf of EDET as detected by the Tracker commonly occur at the start of the constituent participation process with short hearing notice. Over a quarter (about 26%) of all bills were announced nine days in advance, up from a standard of seven days before the Joint Rules took effect:

“All joint standing committees, and special joint committees of the Senate and House of Representatives, shall notify the Sergeant-at-Arms of the time, place and agenda of all public hearings and executive sessions. Notification to the Sergeant-at-Arms for public hearings conducted shall not be less than 10 days prior to the time of such meetings.”

Examples of bills which violate the hearing notice rule after the deadline are:

- H.501, “An Act to ensure LLC transparency”
- H.500, “An Act to ensure corporate disclosure when dealing with cities and towns”
- H.495, “An Act reducing emissions from artificial intelligence”

In most cases, however, it is the reporting deadline which is consistently late or missed entirely, with both House and Senate bills contributing to non-compliance.

The House rule is:

“The House chair of each joint standing committee shall make final report on all matters referred to and heard by their committee prior to the third Wednesday of December of the first annual session of the General Court by not later than 60 calendar days after the matter is heard; provided, however, that an additional 30 calendar days may be granted on a matter by the House chair who shall notify the Clerk of said extension.”

Examples of missed House deadlines:

- H.4431, “An Act relative to internet gaming”
- H.4037, “An Act relative to problem gambling”

- H.490, “An Act preparing Massachusetts for the next economy”

The Joint (de facto Senate) rule is:

“In the absence of final report deadline determined by rule of the branch where the matter was filed, all joint committees and the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently, shall make final report not later than the first Wednesday in December of the first annual session of the General Court on all matters referred to them before the first day of October of the first annual session and within 60 days on all matters referred to them on and after the first day of October of the first annual session of the General Court”

Examples of missed Senate deadlines:

- S.306, “An Act to invest in Massachusetts citizens”
- S.305, “An Act promoting entrepreneurship through employee ownership”
- S.300, “An Act providing oversight of youth sports and combat sports in the Commonwealth”

Both House and Senate origin bills in EDET are more likely to stall in committee than they are to report out late. In other words, even if the remainder were to report out today, they would still be non-compliant due to lateness.

III. Workflow Hypothesis

EDET handles complex, high-impact economic and technology policy bills, including those involving artificial intelligence, corporate governance, climate-related innovation, and emerging industries. These subjects often evolve rapidly, attract significant stakeholder input, and may require coordination across agencies or with parallel legislation.

However, the Joint Rules apply here nonetheless, and bills which EDET handles fail to comply with at least one of the joint rules 100% of the time, with multiple slippages of the rules commonly compounding.

Shortened notice periods disproportionately burden smaller stakeholders, municipal officials, and independent experts who lack the infrastructure of large industry groups to respond quickly. Late or repeatedly extended deadlines put EDET in a gatekeeping role for policy proposals affecting the Commonwealth’s economic model.

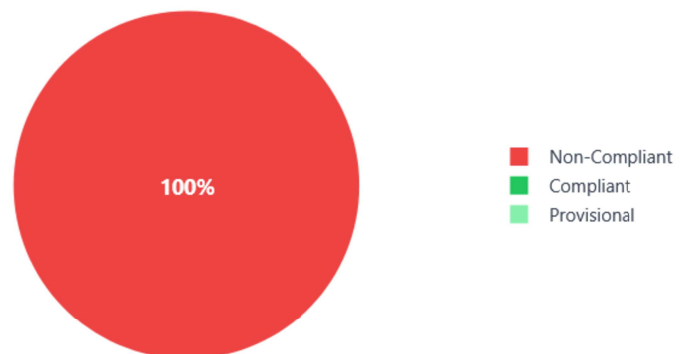


Figure 2: Pie chart showing 100% non-compliance with at least one rule

This appears to reflect a risk-averse institutional workflow where allowing deadlines to lapse or frequently extending them beyond the default 60-90 day limit functions as a de facto holding mechanism.

IV. The Gap

The practical effect of these notice and reporting violations is to narrow the window of meaningful public participation and reduce transparency in the legislative process. Preparation time is cut shorter, hampering public participation, and analysis is deprived, with many bills never exiting committee by reaching a resolution.

EDET has posted hearing dates for a handful of bills within the proper hearing notice, so the base infrastructure is in place in the workflow; it just needs to be exercised in cases where bills are falling short of 10 days' notice. Several dozen bills *have* been announced 7-9 days prior, which suggests that on-time notice is within reach. The large amount of missed reporting deadline suggests deeper workflow issues that would need a targeted new approach to the internal bill cycle for EDET.

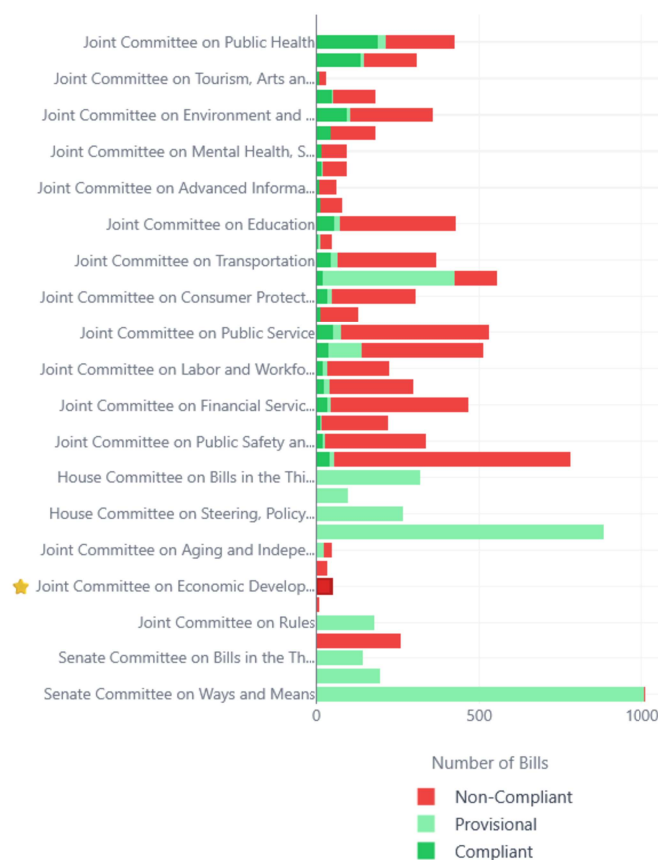


Figure 3: Comparison chart showing EDET's comparatively low compliance rate

V. Accountability Context

	House	Stipend	Senate	Stipend
Chair	Carole A. Fiola	\$44,862	Barry R. Finegold	\$44,862
Vice Chair	Jessica Ann Giannino	\$22,431	Nick Collins	\$7,776

Policy Area AI, corporate transparency, internet gaming & sports gambling, climate tech
Time Range June 2025 - Present
of Violations

The chairs and vice chairs of EDET cumulatively receive \$119,931 for holding these positions. The violations recorded by the Tracker for this committee span the full 194th session, and indicate consistent evidence of legacy workflows which have not been amended in light of the new Joint Rules implemented in 2025, specifically regarding timelines at the tail end of a bill's tenure within the committee.

Analysis based on bill-level metadata scraped from official public legislative sources as of February 15, 2026 using version 1.3.2 of the Tracker and version 1.0.5 of Stipends. 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 information collected by Beacon Hill Stipends, please visit <https://beaconhillstipends.org/>.

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