



Atlantic Commonwealth Bylaws

These bylaws shall include all things meta-related that are prohibited from being changed by all parties barring the State Clerk, and those ranking above them. These shall supercede anything stated in the Atlantic Commonwealth Constitution and passed laws, but not meta-wide rules. The State Clerk may change any portion of the bylaws, but shall make an announcement at least one week in advance.

ARTICLE I: State-Specific Provisions

1. The Speaker and Minority Leader shall be permitted to post no more than two (2) speeches to the State sub per month at the clerk's discretion.
 - a. The Speaker, the Minority Leader, and any other persons permitted at the clerk's discretion may give speeches laying out the agendas of their caucuses for the rest of the term.
 - b. The Governor & Lieutenant Governor shall be permitted to post speeches to the State subreddit at their discretion throughout their term in office which the Minority Leader and Speaker may respond to.
2. "Quorum" shall be defined as half (50%) plus one (1) of the total number of assembly members in office at the time of voting.
3. All official state business involving the State Clerk shall be done via modmail unless explicitly stated otherwise by the State Clerk.
4. "Tabling legislation" shall be defined as removing legislation from the docket.
5. "Legislation" shall be defined as bills, resolutions, constitutional amendments, and any other item that has been added to the docket at the clerks discretion.
6. There shall be no permanent committees in this state.
 - a. Any Assembly committee shall be established via the passage of a Resolution with simple majority. This committee must have a clearly defined purpose, and a specified start and end date.
 - i. Committees will not carry over from Assembly to Assembly by default.

7. The Lt. Governor may issue directives on behalf of the Cabinet if that Cabinet position is vacant, and if the Lt. Governor is granted that power in the method that they derive their powers from.
8. For Governor-appointed positions other than a Lt. Governor, there shall exist three Secretaries that are by default a Secretary of Environment (1), Secretary of Labor, Education Health and Human Services (2), Secretary of Finance and Infrastructure (3), and Attorney General (4).
 - a. The titles of the Secretaries and departments they oversee may be changed by the method allowed by state law or state constitution.
 - i. The Attorney General may not be renamed.

ARTICLE II: Legislation

1. All pieces of legislation shall be submitted by modmailing [/r/ModelNortheastState](#), following the template provided on the subreddit. Any legislation not submitted in the above method may be rejected at the Clerk's discretion.
2. All pieces of legislation submitted with references to other Bills, Amendments, or state law code must include a hyperlink to said reference. Failure to do so may result in the legislation being rejected at the Clerk's discretion.
3. All members of the simulation may submit legislation to the docket.
4. There shall be no limit to the amount of legislation that Assemblypeople can submit.
5. Ratification of amendments to the United States Constitution shall require a simple majority quorum in order to pass the assembly and shall be voted on in the next available voting session upon passing Congress.
6. The number of legislative matters considered each week/voting session shall be left up to the discretion of the Clerk.
7. Unless otherwise stated by these bylaws or the clerk, the following will happen for **Bills & Resolutions**.
 - a. The bill shall be read on Monday of that week.
 - b. The amendment period for the bill shall be a length of 72 hours, from Monday to Thursdays.
 - i. Amendments to bills need a simple majority of those voting to pass.
 1. The person that proposed an amendment in the amendment period must vote on the amendment for their vote to count.
 - c. The voting period for the bill shall be a length of 48 hours, from Thursday to Saturday.
 - i. All bills will require a simple majority quorum of those voting in order to pass, with any ties broken by the Lieutenant Governor.
 - ii. Voting shall be recorded in the format of "Yea", "Nay", and "Abstain".
 1. If a vote is different than the three (3) words above, then it is at the State Clerk's discretion to assign the vote the proper archivable function.
 - d. Bills will be posted in the format of "AB.#" on the state subreddit.
8. Unless otherwise stated by these bylaws or the clerk, the following will happen for **Constitutional Amendments**.

- a. The amendment shall be read on Monday of that week.
- b. The amendment period for the bill shall be a length of 72 hours, from Monday to Thursdays.
 - i. Amendments to Amendments need a simple majority of a quorum to pass.
 - 1. The person that proposed an amendment in the amendment period must vote on the amendment for their vote to count.
- c. The voting period for the bill shall be a length of 48 hours, from Thursday to Saturday.
 - i. All amendments will require a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of a quorum of those voting in order to pass.
 - ii. Voting shall be recorded in the format of format of "Yea", "Nay", and "Abstain".
 - 1. If a vote is different than the three words above, then it is at the State Clerk's discretion to assign the vote the proper archivable function.
- d. Ratification of amendments to the United States Constitution shall follow this procedure, though it will require a simple majority of a quorum as stated in Article II.5 and there shall be no amendments allowed.

ARTICLE III: The Assembly

- 1. Unless otherwise stated by these bylaws or the clerk, the following shall happen for **Leadership Elections**.
 - a. Upon the start of a new term, or upon the call from an Assemblyperson in the event of a vacancy, nomination period for Speaker shall be a length of 48 hours.
 - i. Nominations will be limited to assemblypeople and non-assemblypeople sponsored by an assemblyperson.
 - b. The voting period for leadership elections shall be a length of 48 hours.
 - i. It will always take a plurality of a vote to elect a candidate.
 - ii. In a two-person election, the loser shall be elected Minority Leader.
 - iii. In an election with more than two (2) people, the candidate with the second-most votes shall be elected Minority Leader.
 - iv. In the event there is only one (1) candidate, the position of Minority Leader will remain empty.
 - v. In the event of a tie, the Lieutenant Governor shall not serve as a tie-breaking vote.
 - c. Votes shall be functionally archived as the candidate's Reddit username.
 - i. If a vote is different from the candidate's Reddit username, then it is at the State Clerk's discretion to assign the vote the proper archivable function.
 - d. The Speaker has the power to rush legislation on the docket.
 - e. The Speaker and Minority leader may agree to table legislation.
 - f. The Speaker and Minority Leader may resign at their own discretion.
 - i. If the Speaker or Minority Leader is a member of the assembly, they shall resign the speakership if they resign or are removed from the assembly.
 - ii. The Minority Leader may appoint their own successor.

2. The assembly may reorder the docket via a discharge petition signed by five (5) or more assembly members, with priority over the Speaker's powers to rush. This power may also be used to table legislation on the docket.
 - a. The Lt. Governor shall be allowed to take part in this process
3. Any Assemblyperson may request a proxy for themselves for a period of up to four (4) voting sessions, which translates to four (4) weeks.
 - a. The proxy must be requested by contacting the clerk via modmail on [/r/ModelNortheastState](#).
 - b. The person that has requested the proxy may not carry out any function in the Atlantic Commonwealth during their time utilizing a proxy.
 - c. A proxy may only be renewed a month after the end of the previous proxy.
 - i. The only exception to this is if the new proxy's length added on to the previous proxy is still under two (2) weeks.
4. The Assembly has the power to hold hearings with a majority vote.
 - a. These hearings must relate to a specific, valid legislative purpose of the assembly.
 - b. The Assembly has the power of subpoena to forcefully call individuals to testify at a hearing if they reject a voluntary summon.
 - i. The subpoena requires a majority vote, or at the agreement of the Speaker and Minority Leader.
 - c. Hearings may only occur in a Reddit thread and will last 48 hours.
 - d. The Clerk may reject or delay a hearing at their discretion.

ARTICLE IV: The Executive

1. If the Governor intends on letting a bill pass without a signature, they must notify the State Clerk via modmail on [/r/ModelNortheastState](#), otherwise they shall receive infraction points.
2. Unless otherwise stated by these bylaws or the clerk, the following shall happen for **Confirmation Hearings**.
 - a. Upon the nomination of a candidate to a cabinet or court position, the candidate will have a nomination hearing for a length of 48 hours.
 - b. Hearings will usually occur during the next bill cycle, but the clerk may delay it at their discretion.
 - c. The voting period for the confirmation hearings shall be a length of 48 hours.
 - i. It will always take a simple majority of those voting to elect a candidate.
 - ii. Voting shall be recorded in the format of "Yea", "Nay", and "Abstain".

ARTICLE V: Judiciary

1. State Justices will have two (2) weeks in order to either grant or deny cert on a case unless the Justices indicate an extended deadline is necessary due to the length of the opinion.
2. State Justices will have two (2) weeks upon the closure of a case to deliver a ruling unless the Justices indicate an extended deadline is necessary due to the length of the opinion.
3. A total of three (3) violations of the above two (2) rules will be accepted within a one (1) year period before removal from the judiciary.

ARTICLE VI: Infraction Points

1. Infraction points shall be accumulated as follows:
 - a. Failure to act on a session of legislation within a week (Governor): Five (5) points.
 - b. Failure to break a tie within a week (Lieutenant Governor): Five (5) points.
 - c. Failure to vote (Assemblyperson): Four (4) points per session.
 - d. Failure to post/author any State policy, including legislation once every month (Cabinet): Ten (10) points.
 - i. Legislation for the purposes of this section must be relevant to the Cabinet Member's department and for this state.
 - ii. This section shall not apply to the Attorney General if they are participating in cases. If there are no court cases, they shall be subject to these activity standards.
2. The Lt. Governor, Governor, and Cabinet officials shall be removed if and when they reach ten (10) infraction points.
3. An Assemblymember shall be removed if and when they reach twelve (12) infraction points.
 - a. In the event of a vacancy, parties have exactly one (1) week from either the moment they are notified of the vacancy or the moment they create the vacancy by force.
 - i. If the vacancy is not filled in this time frame, then the Governor may appoint a replacement to complete the rest of the term.
 - b. If the seat belongs to an independent, unless the independent selected a member they would like to have the seat, the Clerk shall grant the seat to the party that would win an extra seat according to the previous state election results and the D'Hondt proportional representation voting system.
4. Points for removal expire after a month.