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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29

Offered January 14, 2026

Prefiled January 13, 2026

Providing for certain Joint Assemblies, establishing a schedule for the conduct of business coming before the 2026 Regular Session of the General Assembly of Virginia, and providing for legislative continuity between the 2026 and 2027 Regular Sessions of the General Assembly.

Patron—Herring

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly shall meet in joint session in the Hall of the House of Delegates on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at such time as specified by the Speaker of the House of Delegates, to receive the Governor of Virginia, and such address as he may desire to make, and that the rules for the government of the House of Delegates and the Senate, when convened in joint session for such purpose, shall be as follows:

convened in joint session for such purpose, shall be as follows:

Rule I. At the hour fixed for the meeting of the Joint Assembly, the Senators, accompanied by the President and the Clerk of the Senate, shall proceed to the Hall of the House of Delegates and shall be received by the Delegates standing. Appropriate seats shall be assigned to the Senators by the Clerk of the House through the Sergeant at Arms. The Speaker of the House of Delegates shall assign an appropriate seat for the President of the Senate.

Rule II. The Speaker of the House of Delegates shall be President of the Joint Assembly. In case it shall be necessary for the Speaker to vacate the Chair, the President of the Senate shall serve as the presiding officer.

Rule III. The Clerk of the House of Delegates shall be Clerk of the Joint Assembly and shall be assisted by the Clerk of the Senate. The Clerk of the Joint Assembly shall enter the proceedings of the Joint Assembly in the Journal of the House and shall certify a copy of the same to the Clerk of the Senate, who shall enter the same in the Journal of the Senate.

Rule IV. The Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeepers of the House shall act as such for the Joint Assembly.

Rule V. The Rules of the House of Delegates, as far as applicable, shall be the rules of the Joint Assembly.

Rule VI. In calling the roll of the Joint Assembly, the names of the Senators shall be called in alphabetical order, then the names of the Delegates in like order, except that the name of the Speaker of the House of Delegates shall be called last.

Rule VII. If, when the Joint Assembly meets, it shall be ascertained that a majority of each house is not present, the Joint Assembly may take measures to secure the attendance of absentees, or adjourn to a succeeding day, as a majority of those present may determine.

Rule VIII. When the Joint Assembly adjourns, the Senators, accompanied by the President and the Clerk of the Senate, shall return to their chamber, and the business of the House shall be continued in the same order as at the time of the entrance of the Senators; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the General Assembly shall meet in joint session in the Hall of the House of Delegates on Saturday, January 17, 2026, at such time as specified by the Speaker of the House of Delegates, to receive distinguished guests, and then proceed to the inaugural platform to witness the administration of the oath of office to the Attorney General-elect and the inauguration of the Lieutenant Governor-elect and the Governor-elect, and that the rules for the government of the House of Delegates and the Senate, when convened in joint session on that day, shall be the same as previously provided for the Joint Assembly; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the General Assembly shall meet in joint session in the Hall of the House of Delegates on Monday, January 19, 2026, at such time as specified by the Speaker of the House of Delegates, to receive the Governor of Virginia, and such address as she may desire to make, and that the rules for the government of the House of Delegates and the Senate, when convened in joint session for such purposes, shall be the same as previously provided for the Joint Assembly; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That notwithstanding any other provision of this resolution and in accordance with the practices of each house, with the exception of commanding and memorial joint resolutions, a request to be added as a co-patron shall be received prior to the first vote on the passage of a bill or agreement to a joint resolution or, if the bill or joint resolution is not reported from committee, then prior to the last action on such legislation. A request to be removed as a co-patron shall be received no later than 3:00 p.m., Friday, March 6, 2026; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That any member offering for introduction a bill or joint resolution not submitted to the Division of Legislative Services for drafting is encouraged to submit an electronic version no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day the legislation is introduced; and, be it

59 RESOLVED FURTHER, That for purposes of the procedural deadlines established herein for the 2026
60 Regular Session of the General Assembly:

61 "Budget Bill" means the general appropriation bill introduced in each house that authorizes the biennial
62 expenditure of public revenues for the period from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026, or July 1, 2026,
63 through June 30, 2028.

64 "Debt bill" means any bill that authorizes the issuance of debt.

65 "Legislative day" means the period of time that begins with the call to order by the presiding officer and
66 ends when declared adjourned by the presiding officer. Unless another time is specified, any deadline
67 established in this resolution shall expire at the end of the legislative day.

68 "Prefiled legislation" means any bill or joint resolution requested from the Division of Legislative
69 Services no later than 5:00 p.m., Monday, December 1, 2025, and prefiled no later than 10:00 a.m.,
70 Wednesday, January 14, 2026, or any bill or joint resolution not requested from the Division of Legislative
71 Services and prefiled no later than 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 14, 2026.

72 "Revenue bill" means any bill, except the Budget Bill(s) and debt bills, that increases or decreases the
73 total revenues available for appropriation.

74 "Unanimous consent" means the affirmation of all the members present in the house of origin. Any
75 legislation intended to be offered for introduction with unanimous consent or with the written request of the
76 Governor shall not require the consent of the house in order for the member to request the Division of
77 Legislative Services to draft such legislation. The Division of Legislative Services shall return such
78 legislation after the original introduction deadline.

79 "Virginia Retirement System bill" means any bill that amends, adds, repeals, or modifies any provision of
80 any retirement system established in Title 51.1 of the Code of Virginia; and, be it

81 RESOLVED FINALLY, That the 2026 Regular Session of the General Assembly shall be governed by
82 the following procedural rules, which establish introduction limits and time limitations for elections and for
83 all legislation prefiled and introduced for the 2026 Regular Session except:

84 (i) House and Senate resolutions, except for the time limitations established in Rules 18 and 20;

85 (ii) Bills and joint resolutions affecting the rules of procedure or the schedule of business of the General
86 Assembly, either of its houses, or any of its committees;

87 (iii) Bills and joint resolutions introduced with unanimous consent to exceed the introduction limits in
88 Rule 1 or to exceed the time limitations established in Rules 2, 3, 6, and 16;

89 (iv) Joint resolutions confirming appointments subject to the confirmation of the General Assembly;

90 (v) Joint commanding and memorial resolutions, except for the time limitations established in Rules 14
91 and 16;

92 (vi) Bills, joint resolutions, or resolutions regarding elections held by the General Assembly during the
93 2026 Regular Session; or

94 (vii) Bills and joint resolutions requested in writing by the Governor.

95 Rule 1. After the deadline for filing prefiled legislation established by House Joint Resolution 429 (2025),
96 no member of the House of Delegates shall introduce more than a combined total of five bills and joint
97 resolutions and no member of the Senate shall introduce more than a combined total of five bills and joint
98 resolutions.

99 Rule 2. No bill or joint resolution creating or continuing a study shall be offered in either house after
100 adjournment of that house on Wednesday, January 14, 2026.

101 Rule 3. No Virginia Retirement System bill shall be offered in either house after adjournment of that
102 house on Wednesday, January 14, 2026.

103 Rule 4. Except for bills and joint resolutions required to be requested earlier, requests for the drafting,
104 redrafting, or correction of any bill or joint resolution shall be submitted to and received by the Division of
105 Legislative Services no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, January 16, 2026.

106 Rule 5. No later than Monday, January 19, 2026, each house shall begin its consideration of any election
107 to fill any judicial seat in the courts of the Commonwealth, or to fill a seat on any commission or office
108 elected by the General Assembly. In the event that the houses cannot agree on such election before Tuesday,
109 January 20, 2026, such election shall become the subject of a special and continuing joint order in each
110 house, and such special and continuing joint order shall have precedence over all other business of either
111 house, until such time as both houses reach agreement on such election or agree to hold it at another specific
112 time. The Rules of each house, as far as applicable, shall be the rules governing such election.

113 Rule 6. Except for bills required to be filed earlier, no bill or joint resolution shall be offered in either
114 house after 3:00 p.m., Friday, January 23, 2026.

115 Rule 7. No later than Thursday, January 29, 2026, the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Retirement
116 System shall submit, in accordance with § 30-19.1:7, impact statements for all Virginia Retirement System
117 bills filed by the first day of session. For any Virginia Retirement System bill filed later than the first day of
118 session, the Board of Trustees shall use due diligence in preparing the impact statement in time for review by
119 the standing committees.

120 Rule 8. Except for the Budget Bill(s), beginning Wednesday, February 18, 2026, the House of Delegates

121 shall consider only Senate bills, Senate joint resolutions, House bills with Senate amendments, and House
 122 joint resolutions with Senate amendments; the Senate shall consider only House bills, House joint resolutions,
 123 Senate bills with House amendments, and Senate joint resolutions with House amendments; and each house
 124 may consider conference reports and other privileged matters relating thereto to the end that the work of each
 125 house may be disposed of by the other.

126 Rule 9. The committees responsible for the consideration of the Budget Bill(s) in the houses of
 127 introduction shall complete their work on such bill(s) no later than midnight, Sunday, February 22, 2026, and
 128 any amendments proposed by such committees shall be made available to their respective houses no later
 129 than noon Tuesday, February 24, 2026.

130 Rule 10. The houses of introduction shall complete their consideration of the Budget Bill(s), except for
 131 conference reports and other privileged matters relating thereto, no later than Thursday, February 26, 2026.

132 Rule 11. The committees responsible for consideration of revenue bills of the other house shall complete
 133 their consideration of such bills no later than Tuesday, March 3, 2026.

134 Rule 12. No later than Wednesday, March 4, 2026, each house shall complete consideration of the Budget
 135 Bill(s) and all revenue bills of the other house, except for conference reports and other privileged matters
 136 relating thereto, and the appointing authority shall appoint the conferees to such bills.

137 Rule 13. No later than Wednesday, March 4, 2026, each house shall begin its consideration of any
 138 election to fill any judicial seat in the courts of the Commonwealth, or to fill a seat on any commission or
 139 office elected by the General Assembly. In the event that the houses cannot agree on such election before
 140 Thursday, March 5, 2026, such election shall become the subject in each house of a special and continuing
 141 joint order, and such special and continuing joint order shall have precedence over all other business of either
 142 house, until such time as both houses reach agreement on such election or either house votes to suspend or
 143 discharge the order. The Rules of each house, as far as applicable, shall be the rules governing any such
 144 election.

145 Rule 14. Requests for the drafting, redrafting, or correction of any joint commending or memorial
 146 resolution shall be submitted to and received by the Division of Legislative Services no later than 5:00 p.m.,
 147 Thursday, March 5, 2026.

148 Rule 15. Any conference committee on any revenue bills shall complete its deliberations and make the
 149 report of such conference available to the General Assembly as soon as practicable.

150 Rule 16. No joint commending or memorial resolution shall be offered in either house after 5:00 p.m.,
 151 Monday, March 9, 2026.

152 Rule 17. Beginning Tuesday, March 10, 2026, neither house shall receive from any committee any bill or
 153 joint resolution acted on by any committee later than midnight, Monday, March 9, 2026.

154 Rule 18. Requests for the drafting, redrafting, or correction of any single-house commending or memorial
 155 resolution shall be submitted to and received by the Division of Legislative Services no later than 5:00 p.m.,
 156 Tuesday, March 10, 2026.

157 Rule 19. Any conference committee on the Budget Bill(s) shall complete its deliberations and make the
 158 report of such conference available to the General Assembly as soon as practicable. Neither house shall
 159 consider such conference report earlier than 48 hours after receipt, unless both houses respectively determine
 160 to proceed earlier by a vote of two-thirds of the members voting in each house. No engrossment of the
 161 Budget Bill(s) shall be required in either house, and any conference on the Budget Bill(s) shall consider, as
 162 the basis of its deliberations, the Budget Bill(s) as offered by the Governor and introduced in the House and
 163 the amendments thereto proposed by each house. A report shall be issued concurrently with the report of the
 164 conference committee that identifies the following by item number, narrative description, and dollar amount:
 165 (i) any nonstate agency appropriation, (ii) any item in the conference report that was not included in a general
 166 appropriation bill as passed by either the House or the Senate, and (iii) any item that represents legislation
 167 that failed in either house during the regular or a special session.

168 Rule 20. No single-house commending or memorial resolution shall be offered in either house after 5:00
 169 p.m., Thursday, March 12, 2026.

170 Rule 21. Except for joint resolutions affecting the rules of procedure or the schedule of business of the
 171 General Assembly, beginning Friday, March 13, 2026, the House shall consider only Senate joint resolutions
 172 and House joint resolutions with Senate amendments; the Senate shall consider only House joint resolutions
 173 and Senate joint resolutions with House amendments; and each house may consider conference reports or
 174 joint resolutions and other privileged matters relating thereto, to the end that the work of each house may be
 175 disposed of by the other.

176 Rule 22. This session of the General Assembly shall adjourn sine die no later than the legislative day of
 177 Saturday, March 14, 2026.

178 Rule 23. Pursuant to Section 6 of Article IV of the Constitution of Virginia, the General Assembly shall
 179 reconvene Wednesday, April 22, 2026, for the purpose of considering bills that may have been returned by
 180 the Governor with recommendations for their amendment and bills and items of appropriation bills, including
 181 the general appropriation act, that may have been returned by the Governor with her objections.

182 Rule 24. Pursuant to Section 7 of Article IV of the Constitution of Virginia, legislative continuity is

183 hereby provided for between sessions occurring during the terms for which members of the House of
184 Delegates are elected, in conformity with the Rules of the House of Delegates and the Rules of the Senate.

185 Rule 25. The conduct of the business of any joint subcommittee or study commission shall be governed by
186 the rules of the house as may be appropriate for the house in which the chairman serves, or in the case of
187 co-chairmen, the rules of the house as agreed upon by the co-chairmen.

188 Rule 26. Interim meetings of any standing committee, joint committee, joint subcommittee, legislative
189 commission, or any other interim study subcommittee or study commission shall be held on Monday,
190 Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday during the first and third full weeks of the month, unless otherwise
191 authorized by the Speaker of the House of Delegates or the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Rules, as
192 may be appropriate for the house in which the chairman serves. The interim work of any such committee,
193 subcommittee, or commission shall be completed no later than Monday, November 30, 2026.

194 Rule 27. Any staff member assigned to work for, and support the efforts of, any committee of the House
195 or Senate, any subcommittee of any such committee, any joint subcommittee of House and Senate
196 committees, or any interim study commission shall work under the direction of the chairman of such
197 committee, subcommittee, joint subcommittee, or interim study commission.

198 Rule 28. The standing committees of the General Assembly shall complete their consideration of all
199 legislation continued by them from the 2026 Regular Session no later than midnight, Monday, November 16,
200 2026.