

Beacon Hill Compliance Tracker

Measuring Massachusetts Legislative Transparency

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This brief analyzes patterns in missing committee votes using publicly posted bill records from the 194th General Court (2025-26). The goal is to reveal where missed votes cluster in the Massachusetts Legislature, and what subjects those committees control. When committees fail to take recorded votes, the public loses insight into how major decisions on issues like education, health, and public safety are made.

Key findings:

1. Missing votes are concentrated within a small number of committees, which together account for the vast majority of unposted vote tallies.
2. Healthcare, education, and privacy/technology bills make up the largest share of legislation lacking publicly posted votes, based on subject-matter categorization.
3. Bills with highly specific or local impacts — especially home-rule petitions and other items that fall outside standard policy categories — are disproportionately likely to lack recorded votes.

Figure 1: This chart shows and compares which Massachusetts legislative committees miss the most recorded votes, highlighting where vote transparency breaks down the most.

Top 10 Legislative Committees by Missing Vote Count

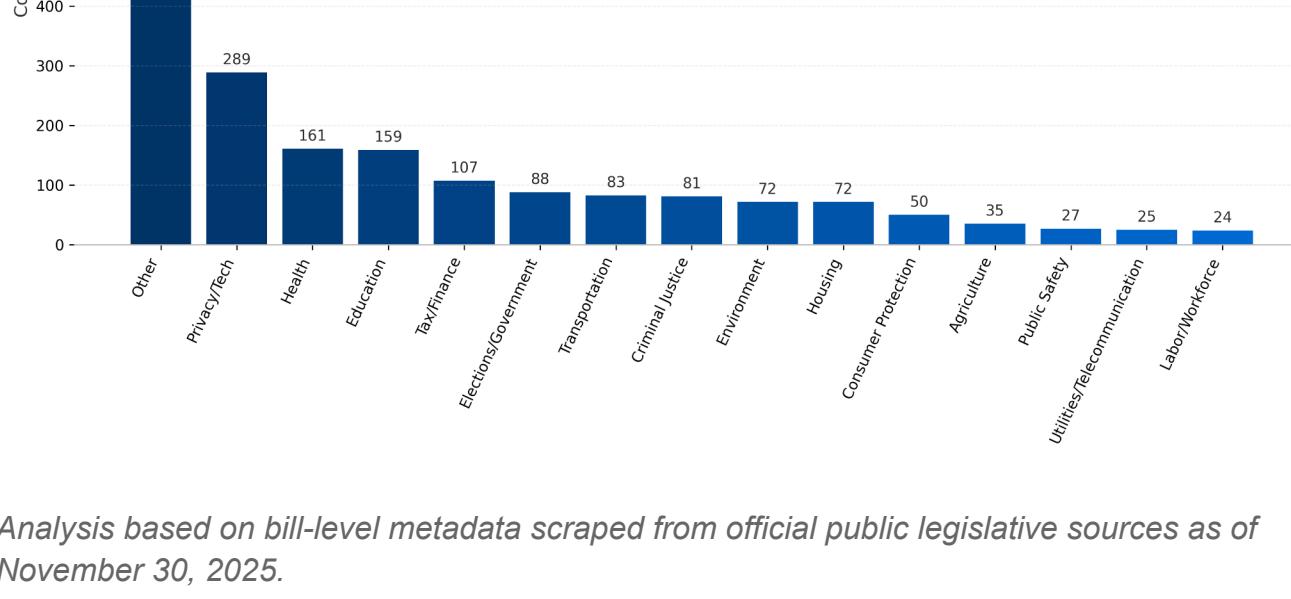


Figure 2: This dataset groups bills with missing vote tallies by keyword clustering, grouping bills by topics that show up the most in tandem; this provides insight into the specific items most impacted by missing votes.



Figure 3: This graph sorts bills by subject matter, showing which categories are most impacted by missing vote tallies. "Other" mostly includes home rule petitions about charter amendments, local appointments, stipends, and other miscellaneous subjects.

Bill Categories by Count



Analysis based on bill-level metadata scraped from official public legislative sources as of November 30, 2025.

Vote presence reflects only what is posted and detectable on public bill pages; no inference is made about committee procedure or intent.

Clustering in Figure 2 used simple keyword grouping for descriptive comparison only.

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

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