



Beacon Hill Compliance Tracker

Measuring Massachusetts Legislative Transparency

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This brief studies how individual committees compare on matters of procedural compliance (adherence to deadlines) and transparency compliance (posting documentation) in the 194th General Court (2025-26). The goal is to highlight measurable trends and differences to better understand where and how compliance breaks down. This analysis provides a structured way to assess and quantify committee performance on these two major axes.

Key findings:

1. Committees vary widely on process compliance, indicating missed deadlines and short hearing notice, but have less variation on transparency compliance, pointing toward more consistent documentation posting.
2. Committees that hit their deadlines more often also tend to post supporting documentation, and vice versa.
3. Only a small subset of committees score higher than 60% on both procedural and transparency compliance, with the vast majority falling short on at least one dimension.

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

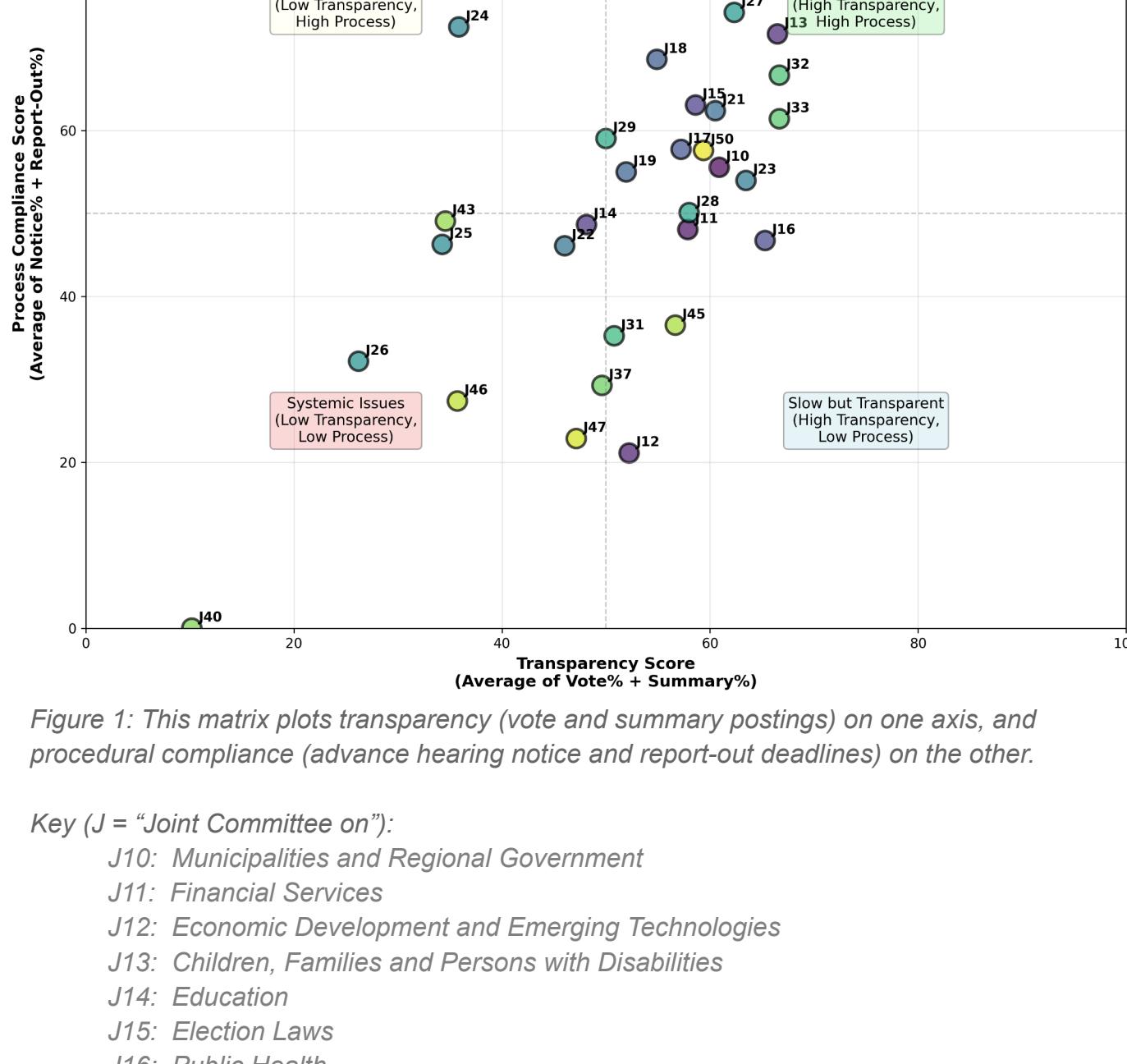


Figure 1: This matrix plots transparency (vote and summary postings) on one axis, and procedural compliance (advance hearing notice and report-out deadlines) on the other.

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 5, 2025 using version 1.2.0 of the Tracker.

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

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.