

# Summary of Rules Enabling Act Procedures

Source: <https://www.uscourts.gov/rules-policies/about-rulemaking-process/how-rulemaking-process-works/overview-bench-bar-and-public>

Action	Date
<b>STEP 1</b>	
Suggestion for a change in the rules. <i>(Submitted in writing to the secretary.)</i>	At any time.
Referred by the secretary to the appropriate advisory committee.	Promptly after receipt.
Considered by the advisory committee.	Normally at the next committee meeting.
If approved, the advisory committee seeks authority from the Standing Committee to circulate to bench and bar for comment.	Normally at the same meeting or the next committee meeting.
<b>STEP 2</b>	
Public comment period.	6 months.
Public hearings.	During the public comment period.
<b>STEP 3</b>	
Advisory committee considers the amendment afresh in light of public comments and testimony at the hearings.	About one or two months after the close of the comment period.
Advisory committee approves amendment in final form and transmits it to the Standing Committee.	About one or two months after the close of the comment period.
<b>STEP 4</b>	
Standing Committee approves amendment, with or without revisions, and recommends approval by the Judicial Conference.	Normally at its June meeting.
<b>STEP 5</b>	

Judicial Conference approves amendment and transmits it to the Supreme Court.	Normally at its September session.
<b>STEP 6</b>	
The Supreme Court prescribes the amendment.	By May 1.
<b>STEP 7</b>	
Congress has statutory time period in which to enact legislation to reject, modify, or defer the amendment.	By December 1.
Absent Congressional action, the amendment becomes law.	December 1.