

HOUSE No. 5409

Substituted by the House, on motion of Ms. Garlick of Needham, for a bill with the same title (House, No. 4994) [Local Approval Received]. December 5, 2022.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act to amend the Williamstown town charter by making all gender references therein gender neutral.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 1 of the charter of the town of Williamstown, which is on file in the
2 office of the archivist of the commonwealth, as provided in section 12 of chapter 43B of the
3 General Laws, is hereby amended by striking out the words “majority of the Selectmen” and
4 inserting in place thereof the following words:- majority of the Select Board Members.

5 SECTION 2. Section 3 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the word
6 “Selectmen”, each time it appears, and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following
7 words:- Select Board Members.

8 SECTION 3. Said section 3 of said charter is hereby further amended by striking out the
9 word “Selectman”, each time it appears, and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the
10 following words:- Select Board Member.

11 SECTION 4. Section 4 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the word
12 “Selectmen”, each time it appears, and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following
13 words:- Select Board Members.

14 SECTION 5. Section 5 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the word “his”
15 and inserting in place thereof the following word:- their.

16 SECTION 6. Said section 5 of said charter is hereby further amended by striking out the
17 word “Selectmen”, each time it appears, and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the
18 following words:- Select Board Members.

19 SECTION 7. Said section 5 of said charter is hereby further amended by striking out the
20 word “Chairman” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- Chairperson.

21 SECTION 8. Section 6 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words
22 “Chairman of the Selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- Chairperson of
23 the Select Board Members.

24

25 SECTION 9. Section 7 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the word
26 “Selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- Select Board Members.

27 SECTION 10. Said section 7 of said charter is hereby further amended by striking out the
28 word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- the Town Manager’s.

29 SECTION 11. Section 8 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the word
30 “Selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- Select Board Members.

31 SECTION 12. Said section 8 of said charter is hereby further amended by striking out the
32 word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- the Town Manager’s.

33 SECTION 13. Section 9 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the word
34 “Selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- Select Board Members.

35 SECTION 14. Said section 9 of said charter is hereby further amended by striking out the
36 word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- the Town Manager’s.

37 SECTION 15. Section 10 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words
38 “Board of Selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- Select Board.

39 SECTION 16. Said section 10 of said charter is hereby further amended by striking out
40 the words “he was” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- they were.

41 SECTION 17. Said section 10 of said charter is hereby further amended by striking out
42 the word “Selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- Select Board
43 Members.

44 SECTION 18. Said section 10 of said charter is hereby further amended by striking out
45 the word “he” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- the Town Manager.

46 SECTION 19. Said charter is hereby further amended by striking out section 11 and
47 inserting in place thereof the following section:-

48 Section 11. Appointment of Town Manager. The Select Board Members elected as
49 provided herein shall appoint, as soon as practicable, a Town Manager, who shall be a person
50 especially fitted by training and experience to perform the duties of the office. The Town
51 Manager shall be appointed without regard to their political beliefs. The Town Manager need not

52 be a resident of the town or of the commonwealth when appointed, and shall not, during the 12
53 months prior to their appointment, have held any elective or appointive office in the Town of
54 Williamstown, other than the office of Assistant Town Manager, if any. The Town Manager
55 shall be a resident of the town during the term of their office. Before entering upon the duties of
56 their office, the Town Manager shall be sworn to the faithful and impartial performance thereof
57 by the Chairperson of the Select Board Members, or by the Town Clerk, or by a Justice of the
58 Peace. The Town Manager shall execute a bond in favor of the town for the faithful performance
59 of their duties in such sum and with such surety as may be fixed or approved by the Select Board
60 Members.

61 SECTION 20. Section 12 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the word
62 “Selectmen”, each time it appears, and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following
63 words:- Select Board Members.

64 SECTION 21. Section 13 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the words
65 “Board of Selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- Select Board.

66 SECTION 22 Said section 13 of said charter is hereby further amended by striking out
67 the word “Selectmen”, each time it appears, and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the
68 following words:- Select Board Members.

69 SECTION 23. Said section 13 of said charter is hereby further amended by striking out
70 the last sentence and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- In the preliminary
71 resolution the Select Board Members may suspend the Manager from duty, but shall in any case
72 cause to be paid to the Manager forthwith any unpaid balance of the Manager’s salary and the

73 Manager's salary for the next three calendar months following the filing of the preliminary
74 resolution.

75 SECTION 24. Section 14 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the word
76 "his" and inserting in place thereof the following word:- their.

77 SECTION 25. Said section 14 of said charter is hereby further amended by striking out
78 the word "Selectmen" and inserting in place thereof the following words:- Select Board
79 Members.

80 SECTION 26. Subsection (a) of section 15 of said charter is hereby amended by striking
81 out the word "Selectmen" and inserting in place thereof the following words:- Select Board
82 Members.

83 SECTION 27. Subsection (b) of said section 15 of said charter is hereby amended by
84 striking out the word "his" and inserting in place thereof the following words:- the Town
85 Manager's.

86 SECTION 28. Said subsection (b) of said section 15 of said charter is hereby further
87 amended by striking out the word "he" and inserting in place thereof the following words:- the
88 Town Manager.

89 SECTION 29. Subsection (c) of said section 15 of said charter is hereby amended by
90 striking out the second sentence and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- The Town
91 Manager may in like manner appoint and remove such other officers and employees as the Town
92 Manager deems necessary to carry out the powers and duties imposed upon the Town Manager
93 by this Act.

94 SECTION 30. Subsection (d) of said section 15 of said charter is hereby amended by
95 striking out the word “him” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- the Town
96 Manager.

97 SECTION 31. Subsection (e) of said section 15 of said charter is hereby amended by
98 striking out the words “Board of Selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:-
99 Select Board.

100 SECTION 32. Said subsection (e) of said section 15 of said charter is hereby further
101 amended by striking out “his” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- the Town
102 Manager’s.

103 SECTION 33. Subsection (f) of said section 15 of said charter is hereby amended by
104 striking out the word “his”, each time it appears, and inserting in place thereof, in each instance,
105 the following words:- the Town Manager’s.

106 SECTION 34. Said subsection (f) of said section 15 of said charter is hereby further
107 amended by striking out the word “Selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the following
108 words:- Select Board Members.

109 SECTION 35. Subsection (g) of said section 15 of said charter is hereby amended by
110 striking out the word “Selectmen”, each time it appears, and inserting in place thereof, in each
111 instance, the following words:- Select Board Members.

112 SECTION 36. Said subsection (g) of said section 15 of said charter is hereby further
113 amended by striking out the word “he” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- the
114 Town Manager.

115 SECTION 37. Subsection (j) of said section 15 of said charter is hereby amended by
116 striking out the word “him” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- the Town
117 Manager.

118 SECTION 38. Said subsection (j) of said section 15 of said charter is hereby further
119 amended by striking out the word “Selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the following
120 words:- Select Board Members.

121 SECTION 39. Subsection (k) of said section 15 of said charter is hereby amended by
122 striking out the word “Selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- Select
123 Board Members.

124 SECTION 40. Said subsection (k) of said section 15 of said charter is hereby further
125 amended by striking out the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- the
126 Town Manager’s.

127 SECTION 41. Subsection (l) of said section 15 of said charter is hereby amended by
128 striking out the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- the Town
129 Manager’s.

130 SECTION 42. Said subsection (l) of said section 15 of said charter is hereby further
131 amended by striking out the word “him” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- the
132 Town Manager.

133 SECTION 43. Said subsection (l) of said section 15 of said charter is hereby further
134 amended by striking out the word “Selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the following
135 words:- Select Board Members.

136 SECTION 44. Subsection (m) of said section 15 of said charter is hereby amended by
137 striking out the word “his”, each time it appears, and inserting in place thereof, in each instance,
138 the following words:- the Town Manager’s.

139 SECTION 45. Said subsection (m) of said section 15 of said charter is hereby further
140 amended by striking out the word “him” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- the
141 Town Manager.

142 SECTION 46. Section 16 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the word
143 “Selectmen”, each time it appears, and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following
144 words:- Select Board Members.

145 SECTION 47. Said section 16 of said charter is hereby further amended by striking out
146 the word “his”, each time it appears, and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the
147 following word:- their.

148 SECTION 48. Said section 16 of said charter is hereby further amended by striking out
149 the word “he” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- they.

150 SECTION 49. Section 17 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the word “he”
151 and inserting in place thereof the following words:- the Town Manager.

152 SECTION 50. Section 18 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the word
153 “Selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- Select Board Members.

154 SECTION 51. Section 19 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the word “he”
155 and inserting in place thereof the following word:- they.

156 SECTION 52. Said section 19 of said charter is hereby further amended by striking out
157 the word “him” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- the Town Manager.

158 SECTION 53. Said section 19 of said charter is hereby further amended by striking out
159 the word “Selectmen”, each time it appears, and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the
160 following words:- Select Board Members.

161 SECTION 54. Section 20 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the word
162 “Selectman” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- Select Board Member.

163 SECTION 55. Said section 20 of said charter is hereby further amended by striking out
164 the word “Selectmen”, each time it appears, and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the
165 following words:- Select Board Members.

166 SECTION 56. Said section 20 of said charter is hereby further amended by striking out
167 the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- their.

168 SECTION 57. Section 22 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the word
169 “Selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- Select Board Members.

170 SECTION 58. Section 23 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the word
171 “Selectmen”, each time it appears, and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following
172 words:- Select Board Members.

173 SECTION 59. This act shall take effect upon its passage.