

HOUSE No. 4413

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Ten

An Act to provide the voters of the town of bridgewater a choice of charters for new forms of government..

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. At the first regular or special municipal election held in and for the Town of
2 Bridgewater after the effective date of this Act, including a special election just for the purpose
3 of the questions set forth in this Act, the voters of the town of Bridgewater shall be afforded an
4 opportunity to vote on the following ballot questions. In the event that this Act takes effect prior
5 to April 24, 2010, the date of the presently scheduled 2010 annual election of the town, then the
6 town may proceed with the ballot questions as set forth in this Section 1 if practicable in
7 obtaining ballots therefore, notwithstanding the time periods set forth in Section 42C of Chapter
8 54 of the General Laws.

9 Question One: Shall the town adopt a new Charter for a Town Manager-Town Council
10 form of Government as set forth in the Act to Provide the Voters of the Town of Bridgewater a
11 Choice of Charters for New Forms of Government

12 Yes----- No-----

13 Question Two: Shall the town adopt a new Charter for a Town Manager-Selectmen-Open
14 Town Meeting form of Government as set forth in the Act to Provide the Voters of the Town of
15 Bridgewater a Choice of Charters for New Forms of Government

16 Yes----- No-----

17 A summary of each form of government may be provided with the ballot questions, as
18 may be prepared by attorneys for the town.

19 Section 2. If neither Question One nor Question Two set forth in section 1 of this Act
20 passes by a majority of the votes cast, then neither form of government shall take effect and the
21 Town of Bridgewater shall continue with the present form of town meeting-selectmen
22 Government. If either Question one or Question two set forth in section 1 of this Act passes by a
23 majority of the votes cast, then that form of government that has obtained the majority favorable
24 vote, shall take effect in accordance with the terms set forth in the Charter so approved.

25 If both Question One and Question Two passes by a majority of the votes cast, then that
26 Charter for a new form of government that obtains the highest number of votes cast in favor shall
27 take effect in accordance with the terms set forth in the Charter so approved.

28 Section 3. Charter for a TOWN MANAGER-TOWN COUNCIL form of government. In
29 the event that the voters of the Town adopt the Charter for a Town Manager-Town Council Form
30 of Government pursuant to section 2 of this Act, the attached Charter shall become effective in
31 accordance with its terms:

32 Section 4. Charter for a TOWN MANAGER-SELECTMEN-OPEN TOWN MEETING
33 form of Government. In the event that the voters of the Town adopt the Charter for a Town

34 Manager-Selectmen-Open Town Meeting Form of Government pursuant to sections 1 and 2 of
35 this Act, the attached Charter shall become effective in accordance with its terms;

36 The Board of Selectmen is authorized to consent to any non-substantive language
37 changes as may be proposed by the General Court or counsel for the General Court.