

HOUSE No. 4343

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Joan Meschino and Patrick M. O'Connor

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to allow the town of Hingham to postpone its municipal election.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Joan Meschino</i>	<i>3rd Plymouth</i>	<i>12/21/2021</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>12/21/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 4343

By Representative Meschino of Hull and Senator O'Connor, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4343) of Joan Meschino and Patrick M. O'Connor (by vote of the town) that the town of Hingham be authorized to postpone the municipal election of said town. Election Laws. [Local Approval Received.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to allow the town of Hingham to postpone its municipal election.

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. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law or by-law of the Town of
2 Hingham to the contrary, the Select Board of the Town of Hingham may vote on any day prior to
3 the Town of Hingham municipal election, presently scheduled for April 30, 2022, to postpone
4 said municipal election to a certain date on or before June 30, 2022 in accordance with this act.
5 Such rescheduled municipal election shall be held in accordance with all applicable election laws
6 except as otherwise provided in this act.

7 (b) The Select Board of the Town of Hingham shall, following consultation with the local
8 election official and the Town Administrator as to logistics and feasibility, vote to reschedule
9 said municipal election. A copy of this act, the vote of the Select Board, and a sample ballot shall
10 be placed on the official Town of Hingham website not later than 20 days before the date to
11 which the municipal election has been postponed. Notice of such action shall be provided to the
12 public in other ways reasonably calculated to enable eligible voters to learn of the rescheduled

13 municipal election date and to cast ballots therein. The notice may include, but shall not be
14 limited to, a “reverse-911” call, municipal list-serve notifications, advertisement on local cable
15 television, or issuance of a press release sent to local news media.

16 (c) Consistent with section 107 of chapter 41 of the General Laws, an incumbent elected
17 official whose term would have expired at the municipal election if the municipal election was
18 not postponed pursuant to this act shall continue to serve in the official’s position until a
19 successor is elected and qualified.

20 SECTION 2. The last day to register to vote for the municipal election postponed
21 pursuant to this act shall be 10 days before the date to which the rescheduled municipal election
22 has been postponed; provided, however, that the board of registrars shall hold a registration
23 session on that date not less than from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM and from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The
24 voting list to be used at the rescheduled municipal election shall include all eligible voters
25 registered as of that date.

26 SECTION 3. The municipal election materials, including, but not limited to, absentee and
27 official ballots, prepared for the municipal election postponed pursuant to this act and bearing
28 that date shall be used for the rescheduled municipal election to the extent practicable. If
29 additional ballots are required to be printed, the ballots shall be identical in form to those
30 prepared for the original municipal election.

31 SECTION 4. Absentee ballots cast in connection with the original municipal election
32 date postponed pursuant to this act, whether returned before said original municipal election or
33 otherwise, and received by the local election official before the close of polls on the date of the
34 rescheduled municipal election, shall be processed in accordance with applicable law; provided,

35 however, that any voter who chooses to vote in person on the date of the rescheduled municipal
36 election may do so if their absentee ballot has not yet been counted. Completed applications to
37 vote by absentee ballot in the rescheduled municipal election shall be accepted by the board of
38 registrars until 12:00 noon on the last business day before the rescheduled municipal election.

39 SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon its passage.