

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2030**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***John Barrett, III***

*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 amend the Williamstown town charter by making all gender references therein gender neutral.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>John Barrett, III</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>	<i>1/17/2023</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 2030

By Representative Barrett of North Adams, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2030) of John Barrett, III (by vote of the town) that the town of Williamstown be authorized to amend the charter of said town by making all gender references therein gender neutral. Municipalities and Regional Government. [Local Approval Received.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

47 Section 11. Appointment of Town Manager. The Select Board Members elected as  
48 provided herein shall appoint, as soon as practicable, a Town Manager, who shall be a person  
49 especially fitted by training and experience to perform the duties of the office. The Town  
50 Manager shall be appointed without regard to their political beliefs. The Town Manager need not  
51 be a resident of the town during the term of their office. Before entering upon the duties of their  
52 office, the Town Manager shall be sworn to the faithful and impartial performance thereof by the

53 Chairperson of the Select Board Members, or by the Town Clerk, or by a Justice of the Peace.  
54 The Town Manager shall execute a bond in favor of the town for the faithful performance of  
55 their duties in such sum and with such surety as may be fixed or approved by the Select Board  
56 Members.

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

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

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

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

71 SECTION 24. Section 14 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the word  
72 “his” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- their.

73 SECTION 25. Said section 14 of said charter is hereby further amended by striking out  
74 the word “Selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- Select Board  
75 Members.

76 SECTION 26. Subsection (a) of section 15 of said charter is hereby amended by striking  
77 out the word “Selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- Select Board  
78 Members.

79 SECTION 27. Subsection (b) of said section 15 of said charter is hereby amended by  
80 striking out the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- the Town  
81 Manager’s.

82 SECTION 28. Said subsection (b) of said section 15 of said charter is hereby further  
83 amended by striking out the word “he” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- the  
84 Town Manager.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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