

HOUSE No. 3923

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Christine P. Barber

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 granting the city of Somerville the authority to require the adoption of institutional master plans subject to the review and approval by the municipality.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Christine P. Barber</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/7/2025</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/9/2025</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	<i>7/29/2025</i>
<i>Erika Uyterhoeven</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>4/11/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 3923

By Representative Barber of Somerville, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3923) of Christine P. Barber (with the approval of the mayor and board of aldermen) that the city of Somerville be authorized to impose municipal reviews on institutional master plans of certain institutional facilities. Municipalities and Regional Government. [Local Approval Received.]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3745 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—————
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**
—————

An Act granting the city of Somerville the authority to require the adoption of institutional master plans subject to the review and approval by the municipality.

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. The purpose of this legislation is to promote and facilitate the coordinated
2 and predictable development of larger-scale institutional facilities. The legislation permits the
3 City to require the adoption of an institutional master plan, as described below in Section 2. An
4 institutional master plan is a land-use and development plan for all land owned or used by an
5 institution within a community, that identifies growth and development over a number of years,
6 or in several phases. The master plan provides a tool to assure the community that strategies and
7 development impacts are addressed through the review and adoption of the plan, while providing
8 predictable outcomes for any planned growth of the institution.

9 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding G. L. c. 40A, § 3 or other applicable law, the City of
10 Somerville is hereby authorized to adopt local legislation imposing institutional master plan
11 review to regulate the use of land or structures for land owned, leased, or otherwise occupied by
12 hospitals, health care institutions , colleges, universities, and non- profit educational
13 corporations.

14 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.