

HOUSE No.



MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

February 13, 2026

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives,

Pursuant to the provisions of Article II, Section 8, Paragraph 1, Clause (2) of the Amendments to the Constitution, as appearing in Article LXXXIX of said Amendments, I am filing for your consideration the attached legislation entitled “An Act Validating Certain Proceedings of the Town of Stow.”

I am filing this special legislation at the request of the Town of Stow Select Board.

The legislation ratifies the results of the Town of Stow Special Town Meeting held on October 27, 2025, where the people of Stow voted to adopt eight warrant articles, which included adopting the MBTA Communities Zoning Bylaw and authorizing the borrowing of funds to address PFAS contamination. The ratification serves to resolve any question that might arise from the fact that there was a technical error in posting the warrant prior to the Special Town Meeting. I understand that the warrant for the Special Town Meeting was properly posted, albeit not for the full 14 days required by statute.

Although the warrant was not posted for the full number of days, the Town of Stow complied with all other statutory requirements and provided actual notice of the Special Town Meeting via the Town’s website, social media accounts, a mailing sent to all households, and the Town’s monthly newsletter. Timely ratification of the results of the Special Town Meeting is necessary to honor the will of the voters, permit the Attorney General’s Office to issue its decision on the MBTA Communities Zoning Bylaw pursuant to G.L. c. 40, § 32, and allow performance of time-sensitive work necessary to address PFAS found in the town’s water supply. I therefore urge your prompt consideration of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Maura T. Healey,
Governor

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act validating certain proceedings of the town of Stow.

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: Notwithstanding section 10 of chapter 39 of the General Laws or any other
2 general or special law or town by-law or charter provision to the contrary, all acts, proceedings
3 and votes taken by the town of Stow at its special town meeting on October 27, 2025, and all
4 actions taken pursuant thereto, are hereby ratified, validated and confirmed to the same extent as
5 if notice of the meeting had been posted and published as required by law.

6 SECTION 2: This act shall take effect upon its passage.