

HOUSE No. 5658

Text of an amendment, offered by Mr. Walsh of Peabody, to the Senate Bill providing equal opportunity for residents to vote on establishment of the Great River Regional School District (Senate, No. 3181). August 20, 2026.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

By striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the following:—

1 SECTION 1. Notwithstanding section 15 of chapter 71 of the General Laws or any other
2 general or special law to the contrary, the towns of Bernardston, Gill, Leyden, Northfield,
3 Warwick and Montague shall have placed on the ballot at the first annual or special town
4 election following the effective date of this act a question to the voters of accepting the creation
5 of a new regional school district to be known as the Great River regional school district.

6 If a majority of the voters present and voting on said question in each of the towns of
7 Bernardston, Gill, Leyden, Northfield, Warwick and Montague shall vote in the affirmative, the
8 proposed regional school district to include all said towns shall be deemed to be established,
9 subject to approval of the commissioner of the department of elementary and secondary
10 education; provided, however, that if a majority of the voters of the town of Warwick present and
11 voting does not vote in the affirmative to approve the proposed regional school district, said
12 district shall be established to include and consist solely of the towns of Bernardston, Gill,
13 Leyden, Northfield and Montague, subject to approval of the commissioner of the department of
14 elementary and secondary education.

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