FILED ON: 11/16/2026

HOUSE . . . . . No. 5720

Substituted by the House, on motion of Mr. Walsh of Peabody, for a bill with the same title (House, No. 5365) [Local Approval Received]. November 16, 2026.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act amending the town charter of the town of Falmouth to create the Falmouth Licensing Commission.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Section C3-7 of article III of the charter of the town of Falmouth, which is on file in the office of the archivist of the commonwealth, as provided in section 12 of chapter 43B of the General Laws, is hereby amended by striking out paragraph B.

SECTION 2. Article VII of said charter is hereby amended by inserting after section C7-8 the following section:-

§ C7-9. Licensing Commission.

A. There shall be a Licensing Commission, which shall consist of 5 members appointed for 3-year terms.

B. The Licensing Commission shall act as the licensing authority and shall have the following powers and responsibilities:

(1) The power to issue licenses for innholders or common victuallers.

(2) The powers of a licensing board appointed under section 4 of chapter 138 of the General Laws, to serve as the licensing authority for purposes of said chapter 138, and to grant all licenses related to alcoholic beverages pursuant to said chapter 138.

(3) The power to issue licenses for entertainment including theatrical exhibitions, public shows and public amusements of any kind pursuant to section 4 of chapter 136 of the General Laws and sections 181 and 183A of chapter 140 of the General Laws.

C. The Licensing Commission shall make all necessary rules and regulations regarding licenses and shall be empowered to attach conditions and impose restrictions thereto as it considers to be in the public interest.

D. The Licensing Commission shall have the authority to enforce, or cause to be enforced, the laws, rules and regulations relating to licensing as to all businesses, entities and individuals for or to which it issues licenses.

E. The Select Board shall have the authority to assign any additional licensing powers conferred upon it by statute to the Licensing Commission through the enactment of a general bylaw. The assignment of such authority shall include the power to grant the license, make all necessary rules and regulations, impose conditions and restrictions and enforce or cause to be enforced the laws, rules and regulations relating to the licensing, as above.

SECTION 3. Within 30 days of the passage of this act, the select board of the town of Falmouth shall appoint 5 individuals to the town licensing commission in accordance with section C7-16 of the charter of the town of Falmouth; provided, however, that 1 member shall serve an initial 1-year term; 2 members shall serve an initial 2-year term; and 2 members shall serve an initial 3-year term.

SECTION 4. Sections 1 and 2 shall take effect on January 1, 2027.

SECTION 5. Section 3 shall take effect immediately upon passage of this act.