

SENATE No. 1471

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Rebecca L. Rausch

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 empowering municipalities and improving efficiency.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Rebecca L. Rausch

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex

SENATE No. 1471

By Ms. Rausch, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1471) of Rebecca L. Rausch for legislation to empower municipalities and improving efficiency. Municipalities and Regional Government.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act empowering municipalities and improving efficiency.

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 8A of chapter 3 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following words:- An
3 approval vote shall continue in full force and effect for a period of 6 years from the date of the
4 vote, unless a vote to rescind such approval is passed by a majority of the voters of a city or
5 town.

6 SECTION 2. Section 18 of chapter 43B of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022
7 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the last sentence and inserting in place
8 thereof the following words:- The procedures set forth in this chapter shall be exclusive.

9 SECTION 3. Said chapter 43B, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by adding the
10 following section:-

11 Section 21. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, a city or town
12 shall not be required to submit for legislative review or approval a home rule petition pertaining

13 to matters with minimal or no statewide impact, including but not limited to: increases in licenses
14 in any municipality other than the city of Boston pursuant to section 17 of chapter 138, provided
15 that the municipality has a licensing board or commission, board of health, or other municipal
16 body that reviews applications or requests for new licenses; charter amendments; changes to
17 voting methodology in municipal elections only; individual personnel exemptions from the
18 provisions of chapter 31; reasonable changes to the proportionality limits set forth in section 1A
19 of chapter 58; and property tax exemptions pursuant to section 5 of chapter 59.

20 (b) The attorney general may promulgate regulations to enforce this section.