

**SENATE . . . . . No.**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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PRESENTED BY:

***Rebecca L. Rausch***

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*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.**

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PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Rebecca L. Rausch*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex*

**SENATE . . . . . No.**

[Pin Slip]

**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.