

Massachusetts House of Representatives
Bill Summary

- Bill #:** H.4135
- Title:** An Act amending the town manager act of Arlington relative to the appointment and management of the town clerk.
- Sponsor:** Rep. Garballey
- Committee:** Municipalities and Regional Government
- Hearing Date:** 6/10/25
- Exec. Summary:** This bill makes the Town Clerk of Arlington an appointed, not elected, position.
- Current Law:** **Section 8 of Chapter 503 of the Acts of 1952** deals with the election of other officers in the town of Arlington.
- Subsections (a) and (c) of Section 15 of Chapter 503** deal with the appointment, removal, and oversight of various town officers. The current law states that the appointment and removal of these officers lie solely with the town manager, and that the officers may be required to report directly to any member of the Select Board at any time.
- Summary:** **Section 1** amends Section 8 of chapter 503 of the acts of 1952 by striking the Town Clerk from the list of officers whose elections shall continue.
- Section 2** amends Subsection (a) of Section 15 of Chapter 503 by striking the Town Clerk from the officers exempt from the Town Manager's supervision.
- Section 3** amends the second paragraph of Subsection (c) of Section 15 of Chapter 503 by adding the Town Clerk to the list of officers appointed by the Town Manager and approved by the Select Board.

Section 4 amends the third paragraph of Subsection (c) of Section 15 of Chapter 503 by adding the Town Clerk to the list of officers subject to removal by the Town Manager.

Section 5 amends Subsection (c) of Section 15 of Chapter 503 by adding the Town Clerk to the list of officers that must report to any member of the Select Board at any time.

Section 6 states that the current elected town clerk will continue to hold the office and perform their duties until the end of their term of office, unless they leave sooner. At that time the elected office shall be abolished and the town clerk appointed pursuant to section 3.

Section 7 states that this act shall take effect upon its passage.

Notes:

Language approved as Article 20 by May 1, 2024 Annual Town Meeting by an electronic vote of 173 Yes and 38 No.