

Massachusetts House of Representatives
Bill Summary

- Bill #:** H.2355
- Title:** An Act authorizing the town of Northfield to acquire property in the town of Bernardston
- Sponsor:** Rep. Susannah Whipps and Sen. Joanne Comerford
- Committee:** Municipalities and Regional Government
- Hearing Date:** July 29, 2025
- Current Law:** Section 14 of Chapter 40 of MGL authorizes a city or town to purchase, take by eminent domain under Chapter 79 of MGL, any land, easement or right therein within the city or town not already appropriated to public use, for any municipal purpose for which the purchase or taking of land, easement or right therein is not otherwise authorized or directed by statute. No land, easement or right therein shall be taken or purchased unless the taking or purchase has been previously authorized by the city council or vote of the town, nor until an appropriation of money has been made for the purpose by a 2/3 vote of the city council or by a 2/3 vote of the town. Municipal purpose is defined in this section as any land, easement or right therein within a city or town, so purchased or taken by eminent domain for the purpose of conveying or granting the same to the Commonwealth for the use of a regional community college.
- Summary:** Section 1 authorizes the town of Northfield, notwithstanding section 14 of chapter 40 of the MGL or any other general or special law to the contrary, to acquire, by gift, purchase, eminent domain or otherwise, property located in the town of Bernardston, for general municipal purposes, including for a public safety facility. Said parcel of land contains approximately 3.018 acres and is located at 546 Northfield Road on Route 10 in the town of Bernardston.
- Section 2 states that this act shall take effect upon its passage.
- Notes:** Language approved as Article 5 by unanimous vote of the Northfield Special Town Meeting on November 13, 2024. Bill no longer required.