

JOINT COMMITTEE ON ELECTION LAWS

2025-2026 (194th) BILL SUMMARY

Bill Number: H.4201

Title: An Act relative to changing the two-year elected term for the Mayor of Chicopee to a four-year elected term.

Sponsor(s): Rep. Shirley B. Arriaga

Hearing Date: July 8, 2025

Reporting Deadline: September 6, 2025

Prior History: N/A

Similar Matters: N/A

CURRENT LAW: Chicopee's city charter does not provide a formal process for recalling elected officials. Without such a provision, voters cannot remove an official from office mid-term except through resignation or legal action.

SUMMARY: This legislation provides that, starting with the next annual municipal election in the City of Chicopee and every four years thereafter, the mayor shall be elected by the city's voters for a four-year term beginning the first Monday in January following the election. It repeals Chapter 144 of the Acts of 1917 and any parts of the city's charter that conflict with this new provision. The act will take effect only if approved by a majority of Chicopee voters at the upcoming state election.