

JOINT COMMITTEE ON ELECTION LAWS
2025-2026 (194th) BILL SUMMARY

Bill Number: H. 828

Title: An Act proposed ordinance D-FY22-009: Bridgewater town charter article III, elected officials recall provision

Sponsor(s): Rep. Dennis Gallagher

Hearing Date: May 6, 2025

Reporting Deadline: 60 days from hearing date

Prior History: New File

CURRENT LAW:

No current law. H. 828 will add an amendment to Article II of the Town Charter of Bridgewater

SUMMARY:

This legislation proposes an amendment to the Town Charter of Bridgewater, specifically to Article II, Legislative Branch, by establishing a recall provision for elected officials. The provision outlines the process for recalling an official, including the filing of a petition with the Town Clerk, the grounds for recall (such as criminal convictions, conflicts of interest, poor attendance, or misconduct), and the requirements for the number of signatures needed. If the petition is certified as valid, the Town Council will schedule a recall election within 60 to 90 days. The elected official can run for re-election, and if they are not re-elected, they will be removed from office. The process also includes specific procedures for handling ballots, the recall question, and the election of a successor. The amendment includes restrictions on filing recall petitions within six months of an official taking office or after a recall election. The amendment will only become effective if it is approved by the Town Council, the State Legislature, and the voters of Bridgewater.