

Massachusetts House of Representatives Bill Summary

Bill #: H.2272

Title: An Act authorizing remote participation at town meetings in the town of Wayland

Sponsor: Rep. Carmine Lawrence Gentile and Rep. David Paul Linsky

Committee: Municipalities and Regional Government

Hearing Date: July 22, 2025

Prior History: Refile of H.2053 (Study Order H.4573)

Current Law: Chapter 39 of MGL concerns municipal government. This chapter deals with matters such as annual meetings, other meetings, adjournments, warrants, moderators, and quorums. Section 10 contains the procedure for issuance of town meeting warrants to hold such meetings in specified physical locations, notice of which shall be given at least seven days before the annual meeting or an annual or special election and at least fourteen days before any special town meeting.

Summary: Section 1 authorizes the town of Wayland to hold annual and special town meetings with voters in one physical location, fully remote, or partially remote, which is otherwise known as a hybrid town meeting.

Section 2 requires that a recording be made publicly available on the town's website of any town meeting held remotely or in hybrid form for at least 30 days following the conclusion of the meeting. The recording shall be a permanent record of the town, subject to disclosure upon request.

Section 3 holds that all actions taken at a remote or hybrid town meeting shall be ratified, validated, and confirmed to the same extent as if the town meeting had been conducted entirely in person.

Section 4 states that this act shall take effect upon its passage.

Notes: The language in this legislation was approved as Article 16 at the 2021 Annual Town Meeting on May 15, 2021. This motion was passed 195-50. Reaffirmed when Article 22 was approved at the May 13-14, 2025 Annual Town Meeting by electronic vote of 124 Yes and 22 No.

According to the town, remote participation in the town meeting could enhance participation in the meeting across all demographics in the town. If this language is approved by the General Court, additional articles will be brought before the town to propose the actual remote participation program and costs of the program.