

Massachusetts House of Representatives Bill Summary

Bill #: H.2311

Title: An Act relative to establishing a commission to study municipal licenses

Sponsor: Rep. Paul McMurtry

Committee: Municipalities and Regional Government

Hearing Date: June 24, 2025

Similar bill: S.1470

Current Law: Chapter 140 of the General Laws governs the licensing of various types of activities and businesses, including common victualler's licenses, hotels, boarding houses, firearms, theaters, dogs, etc. The law regulates the application and review process, enforcement and penalties for violations, inspections, and fees.

Summary: This bill establishes a special commission to study the streamlining of municipal licenses for businesses, to consist of the following members:

- House and Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Business, who would serve as co-chairs;
- 1 member appointed by the Senate minority leader;
- The secretary of (housing and) economic development, or a designee;
- 1 member appointed by the Massachusetts Municipal Association;
- 1 member appointed by the Retailers Association of Massachusetts;
- 1 member appointed by the Massachusetts chapter of the National Federation of Independent Businesses; and
- 1 member appointed by the Massachusetts Restaurant Association

The bill provides for the commission to hold a minimum of 3 public hearings to solicit input from the general public and businesses, to examine the current municipal licensing process and investigate how to streamline the licensing process and procedures.

The commission would be required to submit a report to the Legislature, together with any findings and recommendations, by March 1, 2027.