

# Massachusetts House of Representatives

## Bill Summary

<b>Bill #:</b>	H.2313 / S.1464
<b>Title:</b>	An Act relative to the regional commissions on the status of women
<b>Sponsor:</b>	Rep. Joan Meschino, Sen. Patrick O'Connor
<b>Committee:</b>	Municipalities and Regional Government
<b>Hearing Date:</b>	5/13/25
<b>Prior History:</b>	H.5051 OTP (2023-2024)
<b>Similar matters:</b>	S.1464 (Sen. O'Connor) is identical
<b>Current Law:</b>	<p>Section 66 of Chapter 3 of the General Laws established the permanent state commission on the status of women. Paragraph (f) of Subsection (4) states that one of the powers of the commission is to appoint members to regional chapters.</p>

Chapter 45 of the Acts of 2018 established 3 regional commissions on the status of women and girls in specified geographic areas.

The legislation includes provisions governing the election of officers, frequency of meetings, method for filling vacancies, and powers and duties, which include accepting and soliciting funds to be expended at the discretion of each commission. Other powers include: making use of voluntary services, recommending policies, enacting by-laws for its own governance, holding regular public meetings and forums as necessary, and taking other actions necessary to carry out its mission.

Section 1 of the law created the Eastern Regional commission, to include the towns of Avon, Brookline, Canton, Cohasset, Dedham, Foxborough, Holbrook, Hull, Milton, Plainville, Sharon, Stoughton, and Westwood, and the cities of Boston, Braintree, Chelsea, Quincy, Randolph, Revere, Weymouth and Winthrop.

The law, in section 3, also created a Plymouth County Regional Commission on the Status of Women, which is comprised of all communities in Plymouth County, including Hull.

Each such commission shall study issues facing women (and girls) in their respective geographic areas, reporting their findings and recommendations annually by June 2nd to the statewide commission. Members will not be compensated.

Members would serve 3-year, staggered terms, and may be reappointed to no more than two consecutive terms. Former commissioners may reapply after one year has passed.

**Summary:**

This bill amends the 2018 law by removing the town of Hull from the list of communities that participate in the Eastern Regional Commission on the Status of Women.

The 2018 law established several regional commissions. Section 3 establishes a Plymouth County Commission for the communities of Plymouth County. Hull is located in Plymouth County, so due to this technical error, it is part of both commissions.

According to the sponsor, the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women would prefer that Hull be a member of the Plymouth County Commission and suggested the legislation. Currently, there is no one from Hull on the Eastern Regional Commission, but one member of the Plymouth County Commission is from Hull.