

**Massachusetts House of Representatives
Bill Summary**

- Bill #:** H.2341
- Title:** An Act relative to the charter of the town of Acushnet
- Sponsor:** Rep. Mark Sylvia and Sen. Mark Montigny
- Committee:** Municipalities and Regional Government
- Hearing Date:** 5/13/25
- Current Law:** The Acushnet town charter was approved March 1, 1971 and has been amended several times.
- Section 3-1-2 of the town charter imposes on a former Town Moderator, Town Clerk or member of the Board of Selectmen, School Committee, Community Planning Commission, Board of Public Works, Assessors, and any other elected board governed by Massachusetts law a two-year waiting period for appointment to any appointed, paid town position following the expiration of their respective elected term.
- Summary:** Section 1 of the bill amends the Acushnet Town Charter by striking Section 3-1-2, which imposes a two-year waiting period for reappointment to paid town positions following expiration of the term.
- Section 2 provides for the act to take effect upon its passage, rather than in 30 days which is the usual timeline for home-rule petitions.
- Notes:** The language in this legislation was approved as Article 5 at the Special Fall Town Meeting held on September 30, 2024. This article was declared approved by a majority vote / show of hands. Only a few voters opposed the motion.
- The Town Meeting Warrant explanation states: "The current Section 3-1-2 in the Town Charter restricts elected officers from accepting an appointed paid town position for two years from the expiration of his/her term. This restriction places a draconian constraint on filling vacant positions with competent candidates. It also is somewhat redundant in that the Massachusetts Ethics Law sufficiently restricts public officials from benefiting or participating in matters that they dealt with as elected officials."