

Massachusetts House of Representatives Bill Summary

Bill #: H.4057

Title: An Act to authorize the mayor of the city of Haverhill to submit special legislation to increase the membership of the board of health from three members to five members.

Sponsor: Rep. Andres X. Vargas

Committee: Municipalities and Regional Government

Hearing Date: 6/10/25

Current Law: Chapter 133 of the Acts of 1877, which the city of Haverhill accepted in 1879, instructs Commonwealth cities to establish Boards of Health consisting of two members and the city physician.

Chapter 111 of MGL deals with public health.

Section 26 details membership, appointment, removal, and compensation policies of boards of health in cities.

Section 26 states that Boards of Health shall consist of three members.

The Haverhill Home Rule charter makes no specific mention of the size of the Board of Health.

Summary: Section 1 authorizes the city of Haverhill to increase the membership of the board of health from three to five members through appointment by the mayor and approval of the city council.

Section 2 states that the mayor shall appoint one member of the board of health for a term of three years to serve from the first Monday of the following February and a second member to serve for a term of two years from the same time.

Section 3 includes language from the local approval regarding authorization to amend the bill.

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

Notes: The language included in this legislation was approved at the October 1st, 2024 meeting of the City Council by a vote of 11 yeas to 0 nays.