

Massachusetts House of Representatives

Bill Summary

Bill #: H.4158

Title: An Act expanding the select board of the town of Weston

Sponsor: Rep. Alice Peisch and Sen. Michael Barrett

Committee: Municipalities and Regional Government

Hearing Date: June 24, 2025

Current Law: Mass. General Laws Chapter 41, Section 1 requires that a town elect a board of selectmen (select board) with three or more members to serve terms of not more than three years each.

The town of Weston currently has a 3-member select board and open town meeting form of government.

Summary: Section 1 of the bill increases the number of select board members from three to five. The language states that the select board shall have the same powers and duties as a board of selectmen provided in the General Laws. members would serve staggered 3-year terms of office.

Section 2 contains a process for submitting the proposed legislation to the voters of the town of Weston at a special election 35 days after the effective date of the act. The ballot question would be accompanied by a summary prepared by town counsel and approved by the select board. Sections 1 and 3 of the act would take effect if a majority of voters approve the language.

Section 3 states that a total of three select board members would be elected at the 2026 annual town election, including two additional members if voters approve of the change. One would serve a three-year term and one a two-year term of office, to establish a staggered election cycle. The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes would serve three-year terms, while the candidate receiving the next highest number of votes would serve a two-year term.

Section 4 provides for this act to take effect immediately upon passage. A home-rule petition would normally take effect 30 days following passage.

Notes: This legislation was approved as Article 15 by the Annual Town Meeting on May 5, 2025 by an electronic vote of 173 in favor and 101 opposed.