

Massachusetts House of Representatives Bill Summary

Bill #: H.4168

Title: An Act authorizing the town of Acton to increase the residency limit for members of its police and fire departments

Sponsor: Rep. Danillo Sena

Committee: Municipalities and Regional Government

Hearing Date: June 24, 2025

Similar matters: H.2335 (city of Newton) contains similar language

Current Law: Chapter 41 Section 99A of MGL requires members of the regular police or fire departments and fire alarm division of a city or town, after August 1, 1978, to reside within 15 miles of the limits of said city or town. Such distance shall be measured from the closest borders limits of said city or town in which said member is employed to the closest border limits of the city or town in which said member lives. This section allows for a local ordinance to have further residency restrictions for these members.

Chapter 150E of MGL concerns labor relations for public employees. This chapter deals with collective bargaining rights for public employees.

Summary: Section 1 of the bill exempts Acton from any contrary law and authorizes the town to increase the current 15-mile residency limit for members of the police and fire departments. Any increase in the residency limit would be subject to a collective bargaining agreement negotiated pursuant to Chapter 150E.

Section 2 states that this act shall take effect upon its passage.

Notes: The language in this legislation was approved as Article 35 at the May 5 and 6, 2025 Annual Town Meeting; consent agenda approved (multiple warrant articles approved at the same time).