

Massachusetts House of Representatives Bill Summary

Bill #: H.4173

Title: An Act amending the special legislation establishing the Acton Memorial Library

Sponsor: Rep. Danillo Sena and Rep. Simon Cataldo

Committee: Municipalities and Regional Government

Hearing Date: June 24, 2025

Current Law: Chapter 52 of the Acts of 1890, An Act to incorporate the Acton Memorial Library, established a public library free to all residents.

Section 3 of said chapter provided for the library to be governed by a board of trustees consisting of not more than 9 members, 3 of whom are elected by the voters of the town to serve staggered terms of 3 years each, so that 1 member is elected each year. The other 6 are appointed. Trustees must be residents of the town.

Summary: Section 1 of the bill amends the 1890 special act by increasing the maximum number of members on the board of trustees from 9 to 12.

Section 2 further amends the special act by adding language providing for 3 of the trustees shall be those elected as "Citizens' Library Trustees." This appears to consolidate oversight over both libraries.

Section 3 provides for the act to take effect immediately.

Notes: Language approved as Article 11 at the May 5, 2025 Annual Town Meeting as part of a consent agenda motion.

According to the town meeting warrant article description, both library trustee boards have been meeting jointly since June, 2024. All trustees are acting as advocates for both libraries in the community, sharing their knowledge and experience to improve decision making. Duplicative efforts of staff related to working with two boards have been mostly eliminated, and operations have been streamlined. The election of library trustees will continue. The Citizens' Library Trustees will continue to be elected at Town Meeting. In addition to governing the Citizens' Library, they will independently oversee the library's gift fund, while AML trustees will continue to independently manage AML endowment and trust funds. If this legislation became law, the 12 trustees must take the further step of amending the trustee bylaws to specify the functioning of the newly combined Library Board of Trustees.