

**Massachusetts House of Representatives  
Bill Summary**

**Bill #:** H.4175

**Title:** An Act relative to the charter of the town of Provincetown

**Sponsor:** Rep. Hadley Luddy

**Committee:** Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government

**Hearing Date:** June 24, 2025

**Current Law:** **Section 3.d of Chapter 4** of the Provincetown Town Charter makes no mention of the Fire Chief while specifying which town nominations must be confirmed by the Select Board.

Section 3 of Chapter 7 of the Charter states that the Fire Chief is selected by the Board of Fire Engineers from among its ranks. It does not require a contract when an appointment is made, makes no mention of other appointments within the Fire Department, and does not delineate the Fire Chief's legal authority.

**Exec. Summary:** H.4175 endows the Town Manager with the responsibility of appointing a Fire Chief, makes the position require confirmation by the Select Board, and details their specific responsibilities as preventing and extinguishing fires, overseeing the Emergency Medical Services system, and coordinating with other governmental entities. It also requires the Town Manager to make all appointments within the Fire Department, giving preference to town residents during candidate review.

**Summary:** **Section 1** of H.4175 amends Chapter 4, Section 3.d of the Provincetown Charter by adding "Fire Chief" to the list of department heads appointed by the Town Manager subject to confirmation by the Select Board.

**Section 1** also amends Chapter 7, Section 3 of the Charter by adding language that:

- Reaffirms the Town Manager's responsibility to appoint a Board of Fire Engineers, to serve one-year terms and exceed no more than seven members
- Requires the Town Manager to appoint the Fire Chief
- Mandate the production of a contract between the parties to describe the purpose and responsibilities of the Fire Chief

- Allow recommendations from the Board of Fire Engineers prior to an appointment decision
- Endow the Town Manager to make all appointments within the Fire Department after consultation with the Fire Chief, specifically giving preference to town residents
- Gives the Fire Chief legal authority to extinguish fires, oversee the Emergency Medical Services system, and coordinate on behalf of the town with other government entities
- Reaffirms the Fire Chief's support for the Field Director during an emergency situation

**Section 2** states that this act is effective immediately upon passage.

**Notes:** Approved as Article 19 at April 7, 2025 Annual Town Meeting by majority vote.