

**Massachusetts House of Representatives
Bill Summary**

Bill #: H.4312

Title: An Act relative to charter changes for the town of Longmeadow

Sponsor: Rep. Brian Ashe

Committee: Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government

Hearing Date: 8/14/25 9:00 AM – 8/21/25 5:00 PM

Current Law:

Section 2-10 of the Longmeadow town charter states that no officer or employee of the of any capacity shall be a member of the finance committee.

Section 3-2 of the town charter deals with the Select Board.

Section 55 of Chapter 164 of the Massachusetts General Laws empowers municipalities to appoint a municipal light board, which shall have authority to construct, purchase or lease a gas or electric plant and maintain it.

Section 7-7 details the Capital Improvement Program, which reviews the Town Manager's capital improvement recommendations and provides general counsel on matters related to town improvements and construction.

Summary:

Section 1 amends Section 2-10 of the Longmeadow town charter by striking subsection (c) and adding two sections that require one member of the Finance Committee to serve on the Town's Capital Planning and Building Committee.

Section 2 amends Section 3-2 of the charter by adding subsection (f), which empowers the Select Board to serve as the town's municipal light board under Chapter 164 of the MGL, unless they elect to appoint a three-member municipal light board in their stead with staggered terms.

Section 3 amends Section 7-7 by clarifying the nature and responsibilities of the Capital Planning and Building Committee. It shall consist of seven members, six of which are appointed by the Select Board and one selected by and from the Finance Committee. The committee shall review the Town Manager's five-year capital improvement program and provide other general advice related to town construction.

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

Notes:

Section 1 approved with 200 in favor, 26 opposed, and 4 abstentions as Article 28 during meeting of the Longmeadow Town Meeting dated May 13, 2025.

Section 2 approved with 142 in favor, 10 opposed, and 15 abstentions as Article 30 during meeting of the Longmeadow Town Meeting dated May 13, 2025.

Section 3 approved with 150 in favor, 7 opposed, and 6 abstentions as Article 31 during meeting of the Longmeadow Town Meeting dated May 13, 2025.