

**Massachusetts House of Representatives  
Bill Summary**

**Bill #:** H.4347

**Title:** An Act relative to the Williamstown Library Trustees

**Sponsor:** Rep. John Barrett

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

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

**Current Law:**

Chapter 78 of the Mass. General Laws governs libraries in Massachusetts. Section 10 provides for the election by ballot of a board of trustees consisting of any number of persons, male or female, divisible by three, which the town determines to elect. When such board is first chosen, one third thereof shall be elected for one year, one third for two years and one third for three years, and thereafter one third shall be elected annually for a term of three years.

**Summary:**

Section 1 provides for staggered terms of office for the library trustees. The bill states that of the four library trustee terms that are up for election in 2028, one of these terms to be chosen by the select board shall be reelected for a one-time term of two years in order to align with the single trustee term that is up for election in 2030, and thereafter, shall resume being a three-year trustee term up for election in 2030.

Section 2 provides for this act to take effect upon its passage.

**Notes:**

Approved as Article 32 at the May 22, 2025 Annual Town Meeting.

(Typos in bill need to be corrected.)

According to the warrant article description, "Currently every three years including this year (2025) four library trustee terms are up for election, which represents a quorum of the library board of trustees. For the continuity of the board's work, it would be ideal to not have a turnover of a quorum of the board in one election, and instead to alter the election cycle of one of the library trustee terms to align it with the single term that is up for election in 2027 and again in 2030."