

**Massachusetts House of Representatives  
Bill Summary**

**Bill #:** H.4379

**Title:** An Act amending the charter of the city of Greenfield

**Sponsor:** Rep. Natalie Blais

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

**Hearing Date:** September 4 to September 11, 2025 written testimony hearing

**Current Law:**

Section 3-8 states that the mayor may appoint an acting mayor to serve in the event of temporary absence for at most ten days, at which point the President of the City Council shall assume the duties of mayor.

Section 5-3 states that the mayor must submit a proposed budget and budget message at least 90 days prior to the beginning of the relevant fiscal year.

Section 5-6, subsection (c) states that the city council must submit amendments to the mayor's proposed budget within 60 days of receipt of said budget.

Section 5-10, subsection (a) states that the mayor must submit a capital improvement program at least 120 days prior to the start of the relevant fiscal year.

Section 6-11, subsection (h) states that no member of the Public Safety Commission shall be an employee of either public safety department, nor shall any member of his or her family be an employee or retired member of the Police or Fire Department within 60 months of his or her retirement date.

Section 6-11, subsection (e) states that the Public Safety Commission shall review written complaints made by the public concerning the operation of the Police and Fire Departments.

**Summary:**

Section 1 amends Section 2-10 of the Greenfield city charter by adding language allowing appointments that were not rejected by the City Council by vote to be considered affirmed and qualified to take the oath of office immediately.

Section 2 increases the time that an acting Mayor may be appointed from ten to less than fifteen days, at which point the President of the City Council shall serve as the acting Mayor.

Section 3 shifts the deadline for the mayor's submission of budget and budget message from 90 days prior to the start of the relevant fiscal year to April 22 annually.

Section 4 changes the deadline at which point the city council shall make any amendments deemed necessary from within 60 days of receipt of the budget to June 30 annually.

Section 5 amends the deadline for the mayor to submit a capital improvement program from 120 days before the start of each fiscal year to March 1 annually.

Section 6 states that no member of the public safety commission, nor any immediate family, shall be a retired member of the police or fire department within 36 months of the member's retirement date.

Section 7 strikes language that puts the police and fire department's operation under the purview of the Public Safety Commission.

**Notes:**

Approved unanimously by the Greenfield City Council, Order no. FY 25-103, during meeting dated May 21, 2025.