

Massachusetts House of Representatives

Bill Summary

Bill #: H.4438

Title: An Act relative to the charter of the town of Swampscott establishing a fall annual town meeting

Sponsors: Rep. Jennifer Armini, Sen. Brendan Crighton

Committee: Municipalities and Regional Government

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

Prior History:

Current Law: MGL Chapter 39, Section 9A requires a town, unless otherwise provided for by special act or town charter, to adopt by-laws to hold their annual town meeting in February, March, April, May or June of each year.

Section 6 of Chapter 106 of the Acts of 2016 revised the town charter of Swampscott. Section 2-3 of the charter provides for an annual town meeting to be held on the third Monday of May each year, and at such other times and places as the select board may determine.

Summary: This special legislation would authorize the town of Swampscott to hold a second annual town meeting, which would take place in the late fall.

Section 1 of the bill would amend the town charter by deleting the current town meeting schedule and replacing it with language providing for one annual town meeting to occur on the third Monday in May. A second annual town meeting would take place on the first Monday in December of each year. The select board would still be able to schedule other meetings if necessary.

Section 2 states that this change will supersede any contrary provisions in the charter of bylaws of the town.

Section 3 provides for this legislation to take effect upon its passage.

Notes: Approved by the May 19, 2025 Annual Town Meeting as Article 21.