

Massachusetts House of Representatives
Bill Summary

Bill #: H.4440

Title: An Act authorizing the town of Billerica to transfer control of certain land of the town situated in the town of Billerica for recreational purposes for the purposes of constructing the Yankee Doodle Bike Path.

Sponsor: Rep. Marc Lombardo

Committee: Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government

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

Current Law:

Article 97 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution requires a two-thirds vote of the General Court prior to conveying or changing the use of protected land.

Section 5A of Chapter 3 of the General Laws requires public entities, including municipal select boards, to submit a petition to the General Court in order to transfer ownership and use of land, among other requirements such as notifying the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and setting replacement land of similar purpose and value.

Summary:

Section 1 empowers the town of Billerica to transfer certain lands known as Parcel ID: 78-282-1-1, Parcel ID: 87-258-1 & Parcel ID: 87-249-2 to the Billerica Select Board, pursuant to Section 5A of Chapter 3 of the General Laws for the construction of the Yankee Doodle Bike Path.

Section 2 states that this act shall take effect upon passage.

Notes:

The land of concern in this bill is currently held by the Conservation Commission, and totals 61,501 square feet.

Approved by a vote of 169 in favor and 1 opposed as Article 35 during assembly of Town Meeting dated May 6, 2025.