

Massachusetts House of Representatives Bill Summary

Bill #: H.4502

Title: An Act amending the town manager act of the town of Arlington

Sponsor: Rep. Sean Garballey, Sen. Cindy Friedman

Committee: Municipalities and Regional Government

Hearing Date: September 23 to September 30, 2025 written testimony hearing

Current Law: Chapter 503 of the Acts of 1952 established a town manager form of government for the town of Arlington. Section 10 authorized the board of selectmen to hire experts, counsel and other assistants for conducting investigations or surveys.

Chapter 42 of 2009 established the Arlington redevelopment Board as the board of survey.

Chapter 101 of 2016 authorized the town manager to appoint the director of assessments.

Section 1 of Chapter 434 of 2018 made extensive amendments to the town manager act.

MGL Chapter 41, Sections 81K to 81GG, is the Subdivision Control Law.

Summary: According to the town counsel, this bill would update the Town Manager Act that was amended by special legislation passed in 2009 naming the Arlington Redevelopment Board as the Town's Board of Survey. The Town Manager Act still contains two references to the Select Board as the Board of Survey. The bill will correct the references.

Sections 1 and 2 of the bill amend the 1952 special act by replacing the words "select board" with "redevelopment board".

Section 3 strikes outdated language from the charter that is no longer needed due to the subsequent changes outlined above.

Section 4 strikes a provision giving the select board powers of the board of survey.

Section 5 strikes out the word "surveyors" and replaces it with "regulators".

Section 6 provides for the act to take effect upon its passage.

Notes: Home rule petition approved as Article 13 at the April 28, 2025 Annual Town Meeting by an electronic vote of 204 in favor and 4 opposed.