

## **Massachusetts House of Representatives Bill Summary**

<b>Bill #:</b>	H.4504
<b>Title:</b>	An Act making the charter of the county on Nantucket gender neutral
<b>Sponsor:</b>	Rep. Thomas Moakley, Sen. Julian Cyr
<b>Committee:</b>	Municipalities and Regional Government
<b>Hearing Date:</b>	September 23 to September 30, 2025 written testimony hearing
<b>Prior History:</b>	S.2948 (2023-24) reported favorably; no further action
<b>Current Law:</b>	<p>Chapter 41 Section 1 of MGL provides for a town to elect a board of selectmen, composed of 3 or more members, to serve terms of up to 3 years.</p> <p>Chapter 290 of the Acts of 1996 established the county charter for the County of Nantucket.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Article II of the county charter concerns the legislative functions of the county. The legislative functions of the county shall be performed by the Board of County Commissioners, who shall be the members of the Town of Nantucket Selectmen.</li></ul>
<b>Summary:</b>	<p>Section 1 amends Section 2.2 of Article II of the county charter of Nantucket, which outlines the composition and compensation of the Nantucket Selectmen serving as the Board of County Commissioners, by striking out the word “Selectmen” and inserting in place thereof, the words “select board members”.</p> <p>Section 2 further amends Section 2.2 of Article II by adding the following phrase: “The select board shall have the full role of and all of the powers and authority of a board of selectmen under any general or special law and its members and officers shall have the full role of and all of the powers and authority of the members and officers of a board of selectmen under any general or special law”.</p> <p>Section 3 amends Section 2.3 of Article II of the county charter, which concerns the organization and leadership of the Nantucket Selectmen serving as the Board of County Commissioners, by striking out the words “board of selectmen”, each time they appear and replacing them with the words “select board”.</p> <p>Section 4 amends Subsection (d) of Section 2.8 of Article II of the county charter, which concerns the process of repealing, amending, or</p>

vetoing county ordinances, by striking out the words “board of selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the words “select board”.

Section 5 states that this act shall take effect upon its passage.

**Notes:**

The language in this legislation was approved as Article 91 at the 2024 Annual Town Meeting held on May 7, 2024. It was approved by a 2/3 vote with 1230 yes and 42 no.