

Massachusetts House of Representatives Bill Summary

Bill #: H.4524

Title: An Act changing the name of the board of selectmen in the town of Williamsburg to select board

Sponsor: Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa and Sen. Paul Mark

Committee: Municipalities and Regional Government

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

Current Law: Chapter 40 of MGL concerns the powers and duties of cities and towns.

- Section 21 deals with town by-laws.
- Section 32 governs the publication of ordinances.

Chapter 40A Section 5 of MGL deals with the procedures for the adoption or change of zoning ordinances or by-laws.

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.

Summary: Section 1 of the bill changes the title of the executive body of the town of Williamsburg from board of selectmen to select board. The select board shall have the powers and authority of a board of selectmen under any general or special law, by-law of the town, or any rule or applicable regulation. The members of this board shall be known as select board members.

Section 2 authorizes the Williamsburg select board, notwithstanding sections 21 and 32 of chapter 40 of the General Laws, section 5 of chapter 40A of the General Laws, or any general or special law to the contrary, to amend the general and zoning by-laws of the town by majority vote to revise all references to the board of selectmen and its members to select board and select board member.

Section 3 states that this act shall take effect upon its passage.

Notes: The language in this legislation was approved as Article 24 at the Annual Town Meeting held on June 2, 2025 by a unanimous vote.