

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

**Bill #:** H.4580 / S.2626

**Title:** An Act relative to the select board of the town of Berlin

**Sponsor:** Rep. Meghan Kilcoyne and Sen. Robyn Kennedy

**Committee:** Municipalities and Regional Government

**Hearing Date:**

**Similar bills:** S.2626 is virtually identical, except for minor stylistic differences; H.4056 (Lanesborough), H.4158 (Weston), H.4245 (Mattapoisett)

**Current Law:** Chapter 41 of the Mass. General Laws, Section 1, requires each town to elect a board of selectmen consisting of three or more members, who serve terms of not more than three years.

**Summary:** Section 1 of the bill would authorize the town of Berlin to increase the number of members on the town select board from three to five. members are elected at large by the voters.

Section 2 authorizes the town, at the first town election following the effective date of this act (30 days after final passage), to elect three members of the select board. The candidate receiving the most votes would serve three years, and the candidates who received the second and third highest number of votes would serve two years and one year, respectively. This would establish a staggered pattern of terms of office where their successors would serve three-year terms.

Section 3 provides for the act to take effect immediately.

**Notes:** This home rule petition was approved as Article 19 at the May 5, 2025 Annual Town Meeting, by a counted vote of 127 yes and 17 no.