

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

**Bill #:** H.4717

**Title:** An Act relative to the annual town meeting for the town of Orange

**Sponsor:** Rep. Susannah Whipps and Sen. Joanne Comerford

**Committee:** Municipalities and Regional Government

**Hearing Date:** November 17 – November 21, 2025 written testimony only

**Current Law:** Chapter 56 of the Acts of 2008 states "Notwithstanding section 9 of chapter 39 of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, the town of Orange may hold its annual town meeting on the third Monday in June."

Section 9 of Chapter 39 of the Mass. General Laws states, in part, that except as otherwise provided by special law or a charter adopted or revised or amended ... which may provide for a different time for the election of town officials and other matters to be determined by ballot, the annual meeting of each town shall be held in February, March, April, May or June.

Article 12 of the May 7, 2007 Annual Town Meeting repealed Article 30 of STM March 7, 1977 and replacing it with language authorizing the Board of Selectmen to set the date for the Annual Town Meeting for the third Monday in June.

**Summary:** Section 1 of the bill would authorize the town of Orange, notwithstanding any previous special acts or town meeting votes to the contrary, to hold their annual town meeting on the second Monday in May.

Section 2 provides for the act to take effect immediately upon its passage.

**Notes:** Approved as Article 23 at an October 27, 2025 Special Town Meeting by a vote of 118 in favor, 4 opposed with 1 abstaining.