

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

**Bill #:** H.4738

**Title:** An Act regarding special meetings of the Holyoke City Council

**Sponsor:** Rep. Patricia Duffy

**Committee:** Municipalities and Regional Government

**Hearing Date:** March 3, 2026

**Current Law:** Chapter 438 of the Acts of 1896 revised the charter of the city of Holyoke. Section 12 of the act authorized the mayor to call special meetings of the board of aldermen, as it was then known, by sending written notifications to each member at least 24 hours before such meeting.

Chapter 327 of the Acts of 1936 provided for biennial municipal elections in the city of Holyoke.

**Summary:** Section 1 of the bill deletes the current Section 12 of the city charter.

Section 2 amends the city charter by inserting a new Section 12 that pertains to the procedure for calling special meetings of the city council.

Special meetings of the city council could be called by either the mayor or the president of the city council. Written notices containing the subject matter would be sent electronically to all council members at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. This provision allows councilors to elect how they wish to receive such notices by mail, hand delivery to their residence, or to their city hall desk, by making their preference known to the clerk or assistant to the city council.

Section 3 states that any language in the 1896 and 1936 special acts that may be inconsistent with the provisions of this legislation will be repealed. The 1896 act specified that the mayor shall call special meetings and provide 24 hours' notice. It also only contained one method for notification.

Section 4 contains language carried over from the certified local approval concerning the power of the General Court to make changes to the bill. This language typically is not included within the text of the bill.

Section 5 provides for the act to take effect upon its approval. The standard form is to use the term "passage".

**Notes:** Language approved by Holyoke City Council on October 21, 2025 by a vote of 13 in favor and 0 opposed.