

Massachusetts House of Representatives Bill Summary

Bill #: H.4739

Title: An Act relative to the operation of the municipal light plant in the town of Hull

Sponsor: Rep. Joan Meschino and Sen. Patrick O'Connor

Committee: Municipalities and Regional Government

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

Current Law: Paragraph 14A of Chapter 8 of the Acts of 1989, as amended by Chapter 93 of the Acts of 1993, established the current form of government for the town of Hull. The special act authorized the Hull town manager to:

- supervise the operation of the municipal light plant,
- hire, suspend or remove personnel, negotiate personnel contracts and all other contracts,
- be responsible for the day-to-day functioning and operation of the light plant in accordance with Ch. 164 of the MGL (manufacture and sale of gas and electricity)

The 1993 special act also defined the light board's duties as setting rates and advising the town manager on general policy. The town manager presents the light plant's annual budget to the finance committee and board of selectmen.

Summary: Section 1 of the bill strikes paragraph 14A from the 1989 special act, as amended. The town manager would no longer have oversight over the functions of the Hull Municipal Light Plant as specified in the act.

Section 2 states that this act shall take effect immediately.

Notes: Language adopted as Article 37 at the May 5, 2025 Annual Town Meeting by a vote of 116 in favor and 83 opposed.