

Massachusetts House of Representatives Bill Summary

Bill #:	H.4751
Title:	An Act relative to the charter of the town of Westborough
Sponsor:	Rep. Kate Donaghue, Rep. Hannah Kane
Committee:	Municipalities and Regional Government
Hearing Date:	November 26 – December 5, 2025 written testimony only
Current Law:	<p>MGL Chapter 39, Section 10 governs the issuance of warrants for town meetings, and regulates the manner in which articles are to be placed on the warrant, the amount of time for public notice, and where such notice is to be posted or published prior to the meeting, or otherwise distributed. The law states that the Select Board shall place on the warrant subjects which have been requested of them in writing by at least 10 registered voters.</p> <p>The law also states that for special town meetings, petitions for warrant articles require at least 100 signatures, or 10 percent of the total number of registered voters, whichever is less.</p> <p>Section 2-8 of the Westborough Town Charter contains a procedure for submitting warrant articles to the Select Board at least 30 days before the Annual Town Meeting, but is silent on the number of signatures required, except that it requires the Select Board to follow the applicable statute.</p>
Summary:	<p>Section 1 of this bill amends the charter in Section 2-8 by specifying that the Select Board shall place on the warrant for annual town meeting articles that are requested in writing by town boards and officers, or by not less than 50 registered voters of the town.</p> <p>Section 2 amends the charter in the same section by requiring both the warrants and articles for a special town meeting to follow the procedures that are outlined in the General Laws.</p> <p>Section 3 states that the act shall take effect upon its passage.</p>
Notes:	<p>This home-rule petition was approved as Article 10 at the October 21, 2025 Special Town Meeting by a vote of 227 in favor and 42 opposed.</p> <p>According to the warrant article description, this legislation amends the town charter to increase from 10 to not less than 50 the number of signatures necessary to place an article on the Annual Town Meeting warrant.</p>