

Massachusetts House of Representatives

Bill Summary

Bill #: H.4844

Title: An Act providing for the appointment and removal authority of the town administrator of the town of Wilbraham for employees other than those sworn officers of the Wilbraham police department and Wilbraham fire department appointed by the select board, and department heads appointed by the select board, and department heads appointed by boards and commissions so authorized by general law or by-law

Sponsor: Rep. Angelo Puppolo

Committee: Municipalities and Regional Government

Hearing Date: March 3, 2026

Current Law: Chapter 216 of the Acts of 1987 established the department of public works. Chapter 261 of the Acts of 2022 provided for the appointment and removal authority of the town administrator. The select board appoints department heads. The library director is appointed by the library board of trustees.

Summary: Section 1 of the bill authorizes the town administrator, notwithstanding any general or special law or bylaw to the contrary, to appoint and remove all employees of the town other than department heads. This language references specific officials and town departments:

Board of Assessors, Board of Library Trustees, Council on Aging, Playground and Recreation Commission, Town Accountant, Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, Town Collector, Building Department, Planning Department, Information Technology Department, Public Access, Regional Dispatch, Facilities and Maintenance, Civilian employees of the police and fire departments, and Department of Public Works employees, with the non-binding recommendation of the Director of Public Works.

The town administrator could not appoint or remove any department heads or police officers or firefighters, or the director of public works, nor could they appoint or remove department heads that are appointed by boards and commissions authorized by general law or town bylaw.

Section 2 contains a statement providing that this act shall supersede previous special acts or town bylaws if there is any contrary language.

Section 3 provides for the act to take effect immediately.

Notes: The language was approved as Article 57 at the June 3, 2024 Annual Town Meeting; motion declared passed by majority vote.