

**Massachusetts House of Representatives
Bill Summary**

Bill #: H.5109

Title: An Act authorizing the town of Falmouth to expend funds to offset certain costs associated with the installation of low pressure pumps on private property in future sewer service areas

Sponsor: Rep. David Vieira

Committee: Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government

Hearing Date: March 3, 2026

Current Law: Chapter 44 is the Municipal Finance Law.

Chapter 83 of the Mass. General Laws regulates sewers, drains and sidewalks. There is no law which authorizes a town to reimburse property owners for costs associated with the purchase and installation of low pressure pumps on private property necessary to connect to a municipal sewer or wastewater system.

Chapter 465 of the Acts of 2014 authorized the town of Falmouth to reimburse certain property owners in the Little Pond Sewer Service Area for costs associated with the installation of low pressure pumps on private property.

Summary: Section 1 of the bill authorizes the select board of the town of Falmouth to reimburse certain property owners in any town sewer service area that may be constructed in the future, in order to pay the costs of purchasing and installing low pressure pumps on private property that are required to connect to the town's sewer or wastewater system.

The select board would determine the amount of money that would be paid to each private property owner. Such payments would be equal for each property, and those payments are contingent upon installation and inspection of the pumps by the town wastewater superintendent.

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

Notes: Approved as Article 10 at the November 17, 2025 Annual Town Meeting by a unanimous vote.

According to the town meeting warrant article description, this special legislation would allow the town to purchase grinder pumps for installation on private property as part of a municipal low pressure sewer collection system, and to reimburse property owners for a portion of costs associated with those pumps.