

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

**Bill #:** H.5332

**Title:** An Act addressing a vacancy in the office of mayor in the city of Holyoke

**Sponsor:** Rep. Patricia Duffy

**Committee:** Municipalities and Regional Government

**Hearing Date:** May 13, 2026

**Current Law:** Section 6 of the city of Holyoke charter governs the election of city officials and the procedure to follow if there is a failure to elect such officials or if there is a vacancy or disability. The section includes several references to the city treasurer, however that position is no longer elected by the voters.

**Summary:** This bill would amend Section 6 of the city charter by deleting all references to the city treasurer and clarifies the process for filling a vacancy in the office of mayor.

Section 1 of the bill would retain existing language concerning the election of the mayor, city clerk, members of the city council and school committee. If no mayor or the full number of members of the city council is chosen, or the person elected refuses to accept the office, or dies before qualifying, or if a vacancy occurs more than 6 months before the end of the year, the city council shall call for a new election. The city council also has the option to call an election if such a vacancy occurs less than 6 months before the end of the municipal year.

If there's a vacancy in the office of city clerk, the city council shall elect a city clerk to serve until the next municipal year. In case of a disability preventing the clerk from performing their duties, then the city council would elect a city clerk pro tempore.

Section 2 contains language from the city's local approval document that typically is not included in the bill text itself.

Section 3 provides for the act to take effect immediately.

**Notes:** Language approved in City Council March 17, 2026 by a vote of 10 in favor, 1 opposed and 1 absent. Approved by the mayor March 18.