

Massachusetts House of Representatives
Bill Summary

Bill #: H.5333

Title: An Act pertaining to Holyoke's residency requirement

Sponsor: Rep. Patricia Duffy

Committee: Municipalities and Regional Government

Hearing Date: May 13, 2026

Current Law: Section 45 of the city of Holyoke charter, relative to eligibility to hold office, currently holds that no person shall be eligible to any of the offices of the city government, except superintendent of schools, unless he is a citizen and has been a resident of the city for at least two years.

Summary: Section 1 of the bill replaces Section 45 of the city charter with updated language that limits the scope of the residency requirement to persons who are seeking elected city offices. They would still need to be a citizen and to have resided in the city for at least two years prior to seeking elected office. It also makes the language gender-neutral.

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.