

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

**Bill #:** H.5364

**Title:** An Act further amending Holyoke's residency requirement

**Sponsor:** Rep. Patricia Duffy

**Committee:** Municipalities and Regional Government

**Hearing Date:** May 13, 2026

**Current Law:** Section 46 of the city of Holyoke charter, relative to officers ceasing to be a resident; conviction of crime, states "Any office established under or by this act, except the office of superintendent of schools, shall become vacant if the incumbent ceases to be a resident of the city. The conviction of the incumbent of any such office of a crime punishable by imprisonment shall operate to create a vacancy in the office held by him."

**Summary:** Section 1 of the bill replaces Section 46 of the city charter by clarifying and updating language relative to which offices shall become vacant if the person holding such office is no longer a resident of the city. The provision would only apply to elected offices, and the superintendent of schools would be subject to the residency requirement.

If any elected or appointed official is convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment, then that office would be deemed to be vacant.

The bill also makes the charter section language gender-neutral.

Section 2 contains superfluous language from the city's local approval document that typically is not included within 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 11 in favor and 0 opposed. Approved by the mayor on March 18.