

**Massachusetts House of Representatives
Bill Summary**

Bill #: H.5426

Title: An Act amending the charter of the town of North Attleborough

Sponsor: Rep. Adam Scanlon and Sen. Paul Feeney

Committee: Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government

Hearing Date: June 23, 2026

Current Law:

The Town of North Attleborough is governed by a charter adopted April 2, 2019 under MGL Chapter 43B. It consists of a Town Council and town manager.

Executive Summary:

This legislation makes several administrative changes to the town charter, consisting of minor edits or scrivener's corrections, increasing the membership of the board of health from 3 to 5 members, and establishing a minimum signature requirement for write-in candidates equal to the number of nomination signatures required for ballot access.

Summary:

Section 1 of the bill amends Section 2-4(b) of article II of the charter by replacing the word "section" with "subsection".

Section 2 amends Section 3-1(a) of article III by replacing "Park Commission" with "Parks and Recreation Commission".

Section 3 corrects a charter reference in Section 3-1(d)(2) of article III, relative to the method for filling vacancies in elected offices other than Town Council. The correct reference in (d)(1) provides for such vacancies to be filled by choosing the candidate for the office who received the second highest number of votes at the most recent election without being elected.

Section 4 amends Section 5-4(a) of article V by increasing the number of members on the board of health from three to five.

Section 5 amends the charter provision relative to the planning board by correcting a reference to the Subdivision Control Law in the Mass. General Laws. Section 81GG of the General Laws governs the powers of planning boards established under prior laws.

Section 6 amends Section 7-3 of article VII of the charter, relative to signature requirements for ballot placement, by adding a new subsection (d) which states that the person receiving the highest number of write-in or sticker votes must also have received a number of votes equal to the number of signatures of voters required to place the name of a candidate on the ballot. That threshold is currently 25 signatures.

Section 7 of the bill amends Section 9-1(b)(iii) of article IX of the charter, general provisions applicable to elected and multiple-member bodies, by replacing the word "ordinance" with "bylaw" to accurately reflect the municipal code terminology.

Section 8 provides for the special act to take effect immediately.

Notes:

Docket number 2026-097 approved by unanimous (8-0) vote of the North Attleborough Town Council on April 27, 2026. The proposed changes were recommended by the town's charter review committee and town staff.