

Massachusetts House of Representatives
Bill Summary

Bill #: H.5465

Title: An Act authorizing municipalities to opt-in to a temporary pilot to extend the hours of liquor licenses and to allow for public consumption in designated districts in summer 2026

Sponsor: Rep. Carole Fiola

Committee: Economic Development and Emerging Technologies

Hearing Date: May 28, 2026-June 1, 2026

Reporting Deadline: July 27, 2026 (subject to extensions under House Rule 27)

Current Law:

Chapter 138 Section 12 of MGL governs on premises liquor licenses, authorizing establishments such as restaurants, hotels, clubs, and taverns to sell alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises. It dictates licensing authority, hours of operation, and regulations regarding the sale of alcohol to patrons.

Summary:

Section 1 allows local licensing authorities in cities or towns that permit alcohol licenses to temporarily authorize establishments with on-premises liquor licenses to sell alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption within designated consumption districts, beginning no earlier than June 1, 2026.

Section 2 allows establishments with on-premises alcohol licenses, subject to local approval, to extend on-premises alcohol sales by one additional hour beyond their licensed closing time, up to a maximum of 3:00 am, from June 1, 2026 through August 31, 2026, in accordance with local rules and license conditions.

Section 3 allows cities and towns to temporarily designate public social consumption districts where alcoholic beverages may be consumed in public spaces, subject to local restrictions from June 1, 2026 through August 31, 2026.

Section 4 states that this act shall take effect upon its passage and shall expire on August 31, 2026.