

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

<b>Bill #:</b>	H.5476
<b>Title:</b>	An Act relative to amending the town charter of the town of Provincetown
<b>Sponsor:</b>	Rep. Hadley Luddy and Sen. Julian Cyr
<b>Committee:</b>	Municipalities and Regional Government
<b>Hearing Date:</b>	June 23, 2026
<b>Current Law:</b>	<p>Section 3 of chapter 2 of the Provincetown charter governs preparation of the town meeting warrant. Subsection (g) requires certain town boards, when there is a warrant article that addresses certain topics, to hold a public hearing and solicit public comments, then that board must vote on whether or not to recommend the article.</p> <p>This provision affects the conservation commission, board of health, planning board, charter compliance commission, finance committee and any other town board when a warrant article has been submitted by that particular town board.</p> <p>Subsection (h) requires the finance committee to submit a report for each warrant article that involves the expenditure of town funds at least 7 days before any town meeting.</p> <p>Subsection (b) of section 1 of chapter 5 of the charter deals with the formation of town boards by majority vote of the select board, with such boards being ad hoc or temporary pending ratification by town meeting.</p> <p>Subsection (b) of section 4 of chapter 5 of the town charter prohibits paid town employees from serving on any town board that oversees matters related in any way to their employment.</p>
<b>Summary:</b>	<p>This home rule petition would amend provisions of the town charter related to certain town board procedures before town meeting, the appointment of ad-hoc or temporary town boards, and the restriction against paid town employees serving on certain town boards.</p> <p>Section 1 of the bill amends the charter by deleting the requirement that certain town boards conduct hearings and solicit comments about related warrant articles before town meeting. Current subsection (h) would be renumbered as (g) but the language would remain the same.</p> <p>Section 2 amends the charter provision regulating how town boards are formed, by limiting the select board's power to create, combine, dissolve</p>

or reorganize non-regulatory, appointed town boards by majority vote, unless otherwise prohibited by law or another charter provision. Such boards would still be ad hoc or temporary unless and until ratified by a majority vote of town meeting.

Section 3 amends the charter by clarifying the restriction on employee service on town boards. The language prohibits a paid town employee from serving on any regulatory board, not just town boards that oversee matters relating to their employment during the time they are employed. This section also makes the language gender-neutral.

Section 4 provides for this act to take effect immediately upon passage.

**Notes:**

Approved as Articles 23, 25 and 26 at the April 6, 2026 Annual Town Meeting, declared passed by majority vote.

According to the warrant article description, the eligibility of paid town employees to serve on town boards is determined based upon the employee's potential responsibility to review actions or decisions by their supervisor, and is thus "related to employment." In addition, a paid town employee with supervisory duties may not be a member of any town board that is in any way related to their employment for at least one year after leaving that employment.