

Massachusetts House of Representatives
Bill Summary

Bill #: H.5497

Title: An Act amending the town charter for the town of Plymouth

Sponsor: Rep. Michelle Badger and Rep. Kathleen LaNatra

Committee: Municipalities and Regional Government

Hearing Date: July 22, 2026

Current Law: Chapter 86 of the Acts of 2026 established the current town charter.

Section 2 of the special act amended subsection 2-3-1 of the town charter by providing for the representative town meeting to be held at least twice per year, with the first such meeting taking place in March or April at a time fixed by by-law. Section 50-3 of the town's general by-laws sets the date for the annual town meeting as the first Saturday in April.

Section 4 of the act amended subsection 5-1-1 of the charter, setting the date of the regular town election to be held on the third Saturday of May each year.

Summary: Section 1 of the bill amends subsection 2-3-1 of the charter by extending the timeframe within which the town may hold the annual town meeting from April until June. This would permit the town to hold the meeting anytime between March and June of each year. The exact date and time would be set by town by-law.

Section 2 would amend subsection 5-1-1 of the charter, as set forth in section 4 of Chapter 86 of 2026, by moving the date of the regular annual town election to the second Saturday of June of each year.

Notes: Language approved as Articles 5 and 6 at the April 11, 2026 Spring Annual Town Meeting by a vote of 117 yes, 37 no and 0 abstentions.