

Massachusetts House of Representatives Bill Summary

Bill #:	H.5545
Title:	An Act establishing an amendment to Bridgewater Town Charter Article IV, Section 4-1 Town Manager term of office
Sponsor:	Rep. Dennis Gallagher
Committee:	Municipalities and Regional Government
Hearing Date:	July 22, 2026
Current Law:	Article 89, Section 8 of the Mass. Constitution (Home Rule Amendment) authorizes cities and towns to petition the General Court to enact special laws that apply to that community. This includes the adoption or revision of town charters. Article IV, Section 4-1 of the Bridgewater Town Charter governs the appointment, qualifications, and term of office for the town manager, however the charter does not specify the term of office.
Summary:	This bill would insert language to the charter provision governing the town manager's appointment, qualifications and term of office, providing for the town manager to be appointed by majority vote of the full Town Council to serve a term not to exceed 3 years. The term may be renewed in the same manner for additional terms of 3 years each, subject to the procedures for appointment and removal that are set forth in Article IV of the charter. The bill contains a provision requiring the approval of the voters before the charter amendment may take effect.
Notes:	This legislation was approved by the Bridgewater Town Council at the May 19, 2026 meeting by a vote of 9-0.