

Massachusetts House of Representatives

Bill Summary

Bill #: H.5655

Title: An Act expanding the select board of the Town of Tisbury

Sponsor: Rep. Thomas Moakley and Sen. Julian Cyr

Committee: Municipalities and Regional Government

Hearing Date: 9/21/26 to 9/28/26 written testimony only

Current Law: Mass. General Laws Chapter 41, Section 1 requires that a town elect a board of selectmen (select board) with three or more members to serve terms of not more than three years each.

The town of Tisbury currently has a 3-member select board and an open town meeting form of government.

Summary: Section 1 of the bill increases the number of select board members from three to five, notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary. The language states that the select board shall have the same powers and duties as a board of selectmen provided in the General Laws. members would serve staggered 3-year terms of office.

Section 2 contains a process for submitting the act to the voters of the town of Tisbury for acceptance at a special election to be held not less than 35 days after the effective date of the act. Sections 1 and 3 of the act would take effect if a majority of voters approve the language.

Section 3 states that a total of three select board members would be elected at the 2027 annual town election, including two additional members if voters approve of the change. The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes would serve three-year terms, while the candidate receiving the next highest number of votes would serve a two-year term, to establish a staggered election cycle.

Notes: This legislation was approved as Article 34 by the Annual Town Meeting on April 29, 2026 by a vote of 62 Yes and 51 No.