

Massachusetts House of Representatives Bill Summary

Bill #:	H.5669
Title:	An Act pertaining to City Council procedures (in the City of Holyoke)
Sponsor:	Rep. Patricia Duffy
Committee:	Municipalities and Regional Government
Hearing Date:	November 9 through November 16, 2026 written testimony only
Current Law:	Chapter 438 of the Acts of 1896 revised the charter of the city of Holyoke. Section 13 states that the Board of Aldermen (now City Council) shall determine the rules of its proceedings and be the judge of the election and qualifications of its own members. It also lists basic powers and duties. Chapter 327 of 1936 provided for biennial municipal elections in Holyoke.
Summary:	Section 1 of the bill deletes the current charter section 13, which references the old board of aldermen. Section 2 replaces section 13 of the charter with new language providing for the Holyoke City Council to: - Determine its own rules of proceedings and judge the election and qualifications of its members; - Elect a president, and to have the vice president or a president pro tempore preside over meetings; - Hold open meetings and keep a journal of its proceedings; - Decide questions by roll call votes, decided by a majority of those present; - Exercise the legislative powers of towns, have and exercise the powers vested by law in the city of Holyoke, and be subject to the General Laws and by city ordinances; - Adopt ordinance only after passing three separate votes. Section 3 repeals any part of the 1896 and 1936 special acts that may be inconsistent with the new special act. Section 4 contains language stating that the Legislature may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, and authorizes the mayor and city council to approve amendments before enactment. Section 5 provides for the act to take effect upon its passage.
Notes:	Language approved by Holyoke City Council on August 4, 2026 by a vote of 9 in favor, 3 opposed with 1 absent; approved by the mayor.