

Massachusetts House of Representatives Bill Summary

Bill #: H.5701

Title: An Act authorizing the town of Scituate to dispose of a portion of the Cushing Elementary School property to the Scituate Food Pantry, Inc.

Sponsor: Rep. Patrick Kearney

Committee: Municipalities and Regional Government

Hearing Date: November 9 to November 16, 2026 written testimony only

Current Law: Chapter 30B of MGL is the Massachusetts Uniform Procurement Act which governs how cities, towns and other local governmental bodies must procure goods, services, and real property.

Ch. 40 Section 3 authorizes towns to hold, lease, and convey property.

Summary: Section 1 authorizes the Scituate select board to sell or lease a portion of the former Cushing Elementary School property to the private, non-profit organization known as the Scituate Food Pantry, Inc. in order to house and operate the food pantry. Said sale or long term lease shall be for a term of up to 50 years and on such terms as the select board deems to be in the best interests of the town.

This section also contains the legal description of the property at 1 Aberdeen Drive, Scituate. It includes one of the school properties and a portion of land that the town received through an order of taking.

Language in this bill exempts this lease from the provisions of Chapter 30B of MGL, the Massachusetts Uniform Procurement Act.

Section 2 states that this act shall take effect upon its passage.

Notes: This home-rule petition was approved as Article 37 at the Annual Town Meeting on April 13, 2026. Declared passed by a unanimous vote.

The food pantry is currently located in the former Gates Elementary School. The Cushing School Site Reuse Committee explored the potential relocation and expansion of the Scituate Food Pantry to a more suitable and accessible location on the Cushing site.