

Massachusetts House of Representatives Bill Summary

Bill #: H.5704

Title: An Act authorizing the school committee of the city of Brockton and the Brockton City Council to declare certain land as surplus on land known as "Keith Field" in the city of Brockton

Sponsor: Rep. Rita Mendes

Committee: Municipalities and Regional Government

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

Current Law: Mass. General Laws Chapter 40, Section 15A contains the procedure for transferring land controlled by a municipal board or officer, excluding land acquired for park purposes, when the land is no longer needed for such purposes. Requires a two-thirds vote of the city council and approval of the mayor.

Chapter 99 of the Acts of 1920 gave the Brockton school committee sole control of the athletic field on West Elm Street in the city. Section 1 of the special act stated that the field is named for Eldon B. Keith, a former member of the school committee. It also authorizes the committee to permit the use of the field for athletic games and other entertainment of a public nature at which an admission fee may or may not be charged.

Summary: This special legislation would authorize the transfer of certain land and an easement over said land, which will facilitate the construction of a new clubhouse for the Boys and Girls Club of Metro South, Inc. The site of the present clubhouse abuts both the athletic field and nearby Arnone Elementary School.

Section 1 of the bill authorizes the Brockton school committee to declare as surplus a portion of Eldon Keith Field described as Lot 1 on an approval not required plan of land prepared for the Boys and Girls Club of Metro South, Inc, recorded in the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds in Book 1815, Page 973.

Section 2 authorizes the city council to transfer care, custody, management and control of Lot 1 for any lawful municipal purpose, and the council may then sell, convey or otherwise dispose of the same land.

Section 3 grants the city council authority to sell, convey or otherwise dispose of a non-exclusive access and utility easement on a portion of the same land. The school committee would maintain care, custody, management and control of the same, provided that the school committee votes to create said easement.

Section 4 provides for the act to take effect upon its passage.

Notes:

This home-rule petition was adopted as amended by the Brockton City Council on July 27, 2026 by a vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposed with 2 absent or not voting. Approved by the mayor on July 30.