

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
BILL SUMMARY**

BILL NO: H67

TITLE: Proposal for a legislative amendment to the Constitution prohibiting eminent domain takings

SPONSOR: Rep. Bradley Jones

CO-SPONSORS: Rep. Kimberly Ferguson
Rep. Paul Frost
Rep. Todd Smola
Rep. David DeCoste
Rep. Kelly Pease

HEARING DATE: April 8, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY: 2023-2024, H35 (Jones)
2021-2022, H82 (Jones)
2019-2020, H83 (Jones)
2017-2018, H62 (Jones)
2015-2016, H1400 (Jones)
2013-2014, H66 (Jones)
2011-2012, H1824 (Jones)

COMPANION BILL: None

CURRENT LAW: Article X of the Massachusetts Constitution's Declaration of Rights asserts the right of all individuals to not have their property taken away or applied to a public use without consent. It then states an exception that permits the property of an individual to be appropriated to public use when required by public exigencies and with reasonable compensation.

SUMMARY: This bill adds an amendment declaring that taking land for private commercial or economic development is not a public use of the commonwealth.