

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
BILL SUMMARY**

BILL NO: H69

TITLE: Proposal for a legislative amendment to the Constitution to define the succession plan for a vacancy in the office of Lieutenant Governor

SPONSOR: Rep. Susannah M. Whipps

CO-SPONSORS: Francisco E. Paulino

HEARING DATE: April 8, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY: 2023-2024, H38 (Whipps/Mark)
2021-2022, H.84 (Whipps)
2019-2020, H. 84 (Whipps)
2017-2018, H. 64 (Whipps)

COMPANION BILL: S10 (Mark)

CURRENT LAW: Article VI of Section III of Chapter II of the Massachusetts Constitution, as amended by Article LV of the Articles of Amendment, provides that if there are vacancies in both the offices of the governor and lieutenant governor full power and authority to act as governor or lieutenant governor is given according to the following order of succession: the secretary, attorney-general, treasurer and receiver-general, then auditor.

SUMMARY: This legislation would allow the governor to nominate a new lieutenant governor to fill a vacancy in the seat due to death, resignation or voluntary vacancy, removal from office or permanent incapacity. This nomination must then be confirmed by a majority vote of both branches of the General Court.