

HOUSE No. 3853

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Elizabeth A. Poirier

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to the form of representative town government in the town of North Attleborough.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Elizabeth A. Poirier

Richard J. Ross

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

14th Bristol

Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex

HOUSE No. 3853

By Mrs. Poirier of North Attleborough, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3853) of Elizabeth A. Poirier and Richard J. Ross (by vote of the town) relative to the form of representative town government in the town of North Attleborough. Election Laws. [Local Approval Received.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act relative to the form of representative town government in the town of North Attleborough.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 57 of the acts of 1976 is hereby amended by striking out section 11, as amended
2 by chapter 88 of the acts of 1999, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

3 Section 11. (a) For purposes of this section, the term "board" shall mean a board,
4 commission, committee, council, authority or a group of individuals appointed or elected as
5 enumerated in the by-laws of the town of North Attleborough.

6 (b) Subsection (c) shall apply only to votes passed at representative town meeting to
7 enact a measure:

8 (i) Authorizing the expenditure of \$75,000 or more as a special article appropriation,
9 including a line item appropriation within an omnibus capital improvements article, but
10 excluding the annual operating budget article passed at the annual town meeting;

11 (ii) Establishing a new board or office, or abolishing an old board or office, or merging 2
12 or more boards or offices;

13 (iii) Fixing the terms of office of town officers, where such term is optional;

14 (iv) Increasing or reducing the number of members of a board; or

15 (v) Adopting a new by-law, or amending an existing by-law.

16 (c)

17 A vote to enact a measure described in subsection (b) shall not be operative until the
18 expiration of 10 days, excluding Saturdays, Sunday, and holidays, from the dissolution of the
19 meeting.

20 If within said 10 days, a petition signed by not less than 30 registered voters from each
21 precinct, totaling not less than 5 per cent of the registered voters of the town, containing their
22 names and addresses, is filed with the board of selectmen asking that the question or questions
23 involved in such a vote be submitted to the registered voters of the town at-large, then the board
24 of selectmen, upon certification of the petition signatures, shall forthwith call a special election,
25 for the sole purpose of presenting to the registered voters at-large the question or questions so
26 involved.

27 The polls for such special election shall be opened at 8:00 a.m. and shall be closed not
28 earlier than 8:00 p.m., and all votes upon any question so submitted shall be taken by ballot, and
29 the check list shall be used in the same manner as in the election of town officers.

30 The question so submitted shall be determined by a majority vote of the registered voters
31 of the town voting thereon, but no action of the representative town meeting shall be reversed
32 unless at least 15 per cent of the registered voters voted in said election.

33 Each question so submitted shall be in the form of the following question which shall be
34 placed upon the official ballot:

35

36 "Shall the town vote to approve the action of the representative town meeting whereby it
37 was voted (insert: brief description of the substance of the vote and a tabulation of the vote if
38 such vote was tabulated)?"

39 If the petition is not filed within 10 days, the vote of the representative town meeting
40 shall become operative and effective. Absentee ballot shall be used at such election in
41 accordance with chapter 54 of the General Laws.