

HOUSE No. 3939

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Marjorie C. Decker

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 authorizing the city of Cambridge to include a ballot question on the November 2, 2021 municipal ballot relative to the home rule charter.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>	<i>7/1/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 3939

By Ms. Decker of Cambridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3939) of Marjorie C. Decker (with the approval of the city council) that the city of Cambridge be authorized to include a certain ballot question on the November 2, 2021 municipal ballot. Election Laws. [Local Approval Received.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act authorizing the city of Cambridge to include a ballot question on the November 2, 2021 municipal ballot relative to the home rule charter.

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

1 SECTION 1. The Charter of the City of Cambridge is hereby amended by special act to
2 add the following to the City’s existing Plan E Charter at General Laws Chapter 43, which was
3 adopted pursuant to its acceptance of the provisions of General Laws Chapter 43, Sections 93-
4 116, Section 105 on Appointments:

5 The City Manager shall refer to the City Council and simultaneously file with the Clerk
6 the name of each person the City Manager desires to appoint or reappoint as a member of a board
7 or commission. Appointment of a member of a board or commission made by the City Manager
8 will be effective upon a majority vote of the city council, which vote shall occur within 30 days
9 after the date on which notice of the proposed appointment was filed with the City Clerk. The
10 appointment may be approved or rejected by a majority of the full City Council before 30 days.

11 SECTION 2. The Charter of the City of Cambridge is hereby amended by a special act
12 adding a new Subsection 116 (a) to the City’s existing Plan E Charter, which was adopted
13 pursuant to its acceptance of the provisions of General Laws Chapter 43, Sections 93-116 on
14 City Manager Review:

15 Annually the City Council shall prepare and deliver to the City Manager a written review
16 of the City Manager's performance in a manner provided by ordinance.

17 SECTION 3. The Charter of the City of Cambridge is hereby amended by a special act by
18 a special act by adding the following new Subsection 116 (b) to the City’s existing Plan E
19 Charter, which was adopted pursuant to its acceptance of the provisions of General Laws
20 Chapter 43, Sections 93-116 on Charter Review:

21 Not later than July 1, in each year ending in a 2, the City Council shall provide for a
22 review to be made of the city charter by a special committee to be established by ordinance. All
23 members of the special committee shall be voters of the city not holding elective office. The
24 special committee shall file a report with the City Council within 1 year of its appointment
25 recommending any changes to the city charter which it deems necessary or desirable, unless an
26 extension is authorized by vote of the City Council. Action on any proposed charter changes
27 shall be as authorized by the Massachusetts constitution or general laws.

28 SECTION 4. This act shall be submitted to the voters of the City of Cambridge at the
29 upcoming municipal elections on November 2, 2021 in the form of the following questions
30 which shall be placed upon the official ballot to be used at said election. If the changes are
31 approved by a majority of valid ballots voting yes, they would go into effect as of January 1,
32 2022.

33 Should amendments to the City’s Plan E Charter, Section 105 of Chapter 43, be made, by
34 special act providing for the City Council to confirm appointments of the City Manager to the
35 City’s boards and commissions which confirmation is not currently required? YES___ NO
36 ___

37 Should amendments to the City’s Plan E Charter be made by special act providing for the
38 City Council to establish a process for an annual review of the City Manager’s performance?
39 YES___ NO___

40 Should amendments to the City’s Plan E Charter be made by special act providing for the
41 City Council to establish a process for review every 10 years to be made of the City’s Plan E
42 Charter by an appointed committee of voters per City Council Ordinance? YES___ NO___

43 Below said question shall appear a brief summary of the act prepared by the city solicitor.

44 If the voters at the municipal election approve the question. then this act shall be
45 applicable to the city as of January 1, 2022, but not otherwise.

46 SECTION 5. This act shall be effective upon its passage.