

HOUSE No. 3999

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Peter J. Durant

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 use of legal counsel by the town of Southbridge.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Peter J. Durant

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

6th Worcester

HOUSE No. 3999

By Mr. Durant of Spencer, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3999) of Peter J. Durant (by vote of the town) that the town manager of the town of Southbridge be authorized to regulate the use of legal counsel by certain town offices in said town. Municipalities and Regional Government. [Local Approval Received.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to the use of legal counsel by the town of Southbridge.

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. Section 7-1-1 of the charter of the town of Southbridge, which is on file in
2 the office of the archivist of the commonwealth, as provided in section 12 of chapter 43B of the
3 General Laws, is hereby amended by inserting after the first paragraph the following paragraph:-

4

5 No town office or agency shall, unless specifically authorized to do so by the town
6 manager, employ, advise with or consult any attorney or counselor at law with regard to its
7 duties, or to any town business. Whenever it is determined that the services of a legal specialist
8 are required, necessary or desirable, the town manager shall, after consultation with the town
9 attorney and the office or agency involved, designate such special counsel.

10

11 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding section 42C of chapter 54 of the General Laws, this act
12 shall be submitted to the voters of the town of Southbridge in the form of the following question
13 which shall be placed on the ballot at a regular or special town election to be held in the year
14 2016:

15

16 “Shall an act passed by the General Court in the year 2016, entitled ‘An Act relative to
17 the use of legal counsel by the town of Southbridge’ be accepted?”

18

19 The town counsel of the town of Southbridge shall cause a fair and concise summary of
20 the question to be included below the ballot question.

21

22 If a majority of the votes cast in answer to this question are in the affirmative, this act
23 shall take effect in the town of Southbridge, but not otherwise.

24

25 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.