

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4286**

---

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Joan Meschino and Patrick M. O'Connor*

*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 amending the charter of the town of Hull to make it more gender neutral.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Joan Meschino</i>	<i>3rd Plymouth</i>	<i>11/19/2021</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	<i>11/22/2021</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4286**

By Representative Meschino of Hull and Senator O'Connor, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4286) of Joan Meschino and Patrick M. O'Connor (by vote of the town) for legislation to make the charter of the town of Hull more gender neutral. Municipalities and Regional Government. [Local Approval Received.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act amending the charter of the town of Hull to make it more gender neutral.

*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 first paragraph of section 2 of chapter 8 of the acts of 1989 is hereby  
2 amended by striking out the words “board of selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the  
3 following words:- select board.

4 SECTION 2. The fourth paragraph of said section 2 of said chapter 8 is hereby amended  
5 by striking out the word “selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- select  
6 board members.

7 SECTION 3. Subsection A of section 3 of said chapter 8 is hereby amended by striking  
8 out the words “board of selectmen”, each time they appear, and inserting in place thereof, in each  
9 instance, the following words:- select board.

10 SECTION 4. Said subsection A of said section 3 of said chapter 8 is hereby further  
11 amended by striking out the word “selectmen”, the fifth time it appears, and inserting in place  
12 thereof the following words:- select board members.

13 SECTION 5. Subsection B of said section 3 of said chapter 8 if hereby amended by  
14 striking out the words “board of selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:-  
15 select board.

16 SECTION 6. Subsection C of said section 3 of said chapter 8 if hereby amended by  
17 striking out the words “board of selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:-  
18 select board.

19 SECTION 7. Subsection D of said section 3 of said chapter 8 if hereby amended by  
20 striking out the words “board of selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:-  
21 select board.

22 SECTION 8. Subsection E of said section 3 of said chapter 8 if hereby amended by  
23 striking out the words “board of selectmen”, each time they appear, and inserting in place  
24 thereof, in each instance, the following words:- select board.

25 SECTION 9. Subsection F of said section 3 of said chapter 8 if hereby amended by  
26 striking out the words “board of selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:-  
27 select board.

28 SECTION 10. Subsection G of said section 3 of said chapter 8 if hereby amended by  
29 striking out the words “board of selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:-  
30 select board.

31 SECTION 11. Subsection H of said section 3 of said chapter 8 is hereby amended by  
32 striking out the words “board of selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:-  
33 select board.

34 SECTION 12. Said subsection H of said section 3 of said chapter 8 is hereby further  
35 amended by striking out the word “selectmen”, the second time it appears, and inserting in place  
36 thereof the following words:- select board members.

37 SECTION 13. Subsection I of said section 3 of said chapter 8 is hereby amended by  
38 striking out the words “board of selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:-  
39 select board.

40 SECTION 14. Said subsection I of said section 3 of said chapter 8 is hereby further  
41 amended by striking out the word “selectmen”, the second time it appears, and inserting in place  
42 thereof the following words:- select board members.

43 SECTION 15. Said section 3 of said chapter 8 is hereby amended by striking out  
44 subsection J and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

45 J. The select board may suspend or remove the town manager at any time by a vote of at  
46 least 3 members voting in the affirmative. At least 30 days before such proposed suspension or  
47 removal shall become effective, the select board members shall file a preliminary written  
48 resolution with the town clerk setting forth in detail the specific reasons for the proposed  
49 suspension or removal, a copy of which resolution shall be delivered to the town manager. The  
50 manager may, within 10 days of service of such resolution, reply in writing to the resolution and  
51 may request a public hearing. Service shall be deemed to have been accomplished by leaving a  
52 copy of such resolution at the manager's last known abode. If the manager so requests, the select

53 board shall hold a public hearing not earlier than 20 days nor later than 30 days after the filing of  
54 such a request. After such public hearing, if any, otherwise at the expiration of 30 days following  
55 the filing of the preliminary resolution, and after full consideration, the select board members by  
56 a vote of at least 3 affirmative votes of its members, may adopt the final resolution of suspension  
57 or removal. In the preliminary resolution, the select board members may suspend the manager  
58 from duty. Nothing contained herein shall limit the authority of the select board to suspend or  
59 remove the town manager as provided by state law. Any suspension may be with or without pay.

60 SECTION 16. Subsection K of said section 3 of said chapter 8 is hereby amended by  
61 striking out the words “board of selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:-  
62 select board.

63 SECTION 17. Subsection L of said section 3 of said chapter 8 is hereby amended by  
64 striking out the words “board of selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:-  
65 select board.

66 SECTION 18. Subsection M of said section 3 of said chapter 8 is hereby amended by  
67 striking out the words “board of selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:-  
68 select board.

69 SECTION 19. Subsection A of section 4 of said chapter 8 is hereby amended by striking  
70 out the words “board of selectmen”, each time they appear, and inserting in place thereof, in each  
71 instance, the following words:- select board.

72 SECTION 20. Paragraph 1 of subsection B of said section 4 of said chapter 8 is hereby  
73 amended by striking out the words “board of selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the  
74 following words:- select board.

75 SECTION 21. Paragraph 3 of said subsection B of said section 4 of said chapter 8 is  
76 hereby amended by striking out the words “board of selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the  
77 following words:- select board.

78 SECTION 22. Paragraph 5 of said subsection B of said section 4 of said chapter 8 is  
79 hereby amended by striking out the words “board of selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the  
80 following words:- select board.

81 SECTION 23. Paragraph 1 of subsection C of said section 4 of said chapter 8 is hereby  
82 amended by striking out the word “selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the following  
83 words:- select board members.

84 SECTION 24. Paragraph 3 of said subsection C of said section 4 of said chapter 8 is  
85 hereby amended by striking out the words “board of selectmen”, each time they appear, and  
86 inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following words:- select board.

87 SECTION 25. Paragraph 6 of said subsection C of said section 4 of said chapter 8 is  
88 hereby amended by striking out the word “selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the  
89 following words:- select board members.

90 SECTION 26. Paragraph 7 of said subsection C of said section 4 of said chapter 8 is  
91 hereby amended by striking out the word “selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the  
92 following words:- select board members.

93 SECTION 27. Paragraph 8 of said subsection C of said section 4 of said chapter 8 is  
94 hereby amended by striking out the words “board of selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the  
95 following words:- select board.

96 SECTION 28. Paragraph 11 of said subsection C of said section 4 of said chapter 8 is  
97 hereby amended by striking out the words “board of selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the  
98 following words:- select board.

99 SECTION 29. Paragraph 12 of said subsection C of said section 4 of said chapter 8 is  
100 hereby amended by striking out the words “board of selectmen”, each time they appear, and  
101 inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following words:- select board.

102 SECTION 30. Paragraph 14 of said subsection C of said section 4 of said chapter 8 is  
103 hereby amended by striking out the words “board of selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the  
104 following words:- select board.

105 SECTION 31. Paragraph 14A of said subsection C of said section 4 of said chapter 8, as  
106 inserted by section 1 of chapter 93 of the acts of 1993, is hereby amended by striking out the  
107 words “board of selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- select board.

108 SECTION 32. Paragraph 15 of said subsection C of said section 4 of said chapter 8 is  
109 hereby amended by striking out the words “board of selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the  
110 following words:- select board.

111 SECTION 33. Paragraph 1 of section 6 of said chapter 8 is hereby amended by striking  
112 out the words “board of selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- select  
113 board.

114 SECTION 34. Paragraph 2 of section 6 of said chapter 8 is hereby amended by striking  
115 out the words “board of selectmen”, each time they appear, and inserting in place thereof, in each  
116 instance, the following words:- select board.

117 SECTION 35. Section 9 of said chapter 8 is hereby amended by striking out the words  
118 “board of selectmen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- select board.

119 SECTION 36. Said chapter 8 is hereby further amended by inserting after section 9 the  
120 following section:-

121 Section 9A . This charter shall be interpreted and applied in a gender neutral manner.  
122 Except as expressly provided for in the town charter or other law, the select board or select board  
123 members, as the context so admits, shall have all the powers and duties of a board of selectmen  
124 or selectman under the federal laws, General Laws, town bylaws, rules and regulations and any  
125 special laws applicable to the town of Hull.

126 SECTION 37. This act shall take effect upon its passage.