

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2676**

---

Senate, November 26, 2018 -- Substituted by amendment (Senator Jehlen) as a new draft for Senate, No. 2664

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act amending the charter of the city of Somerville.

*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 2 of title 1 of the charter of the city of Somerville, which is on file  
2 in the office of the archivist of the commonwealth, as provided in section 12 of chapter 43B of  
3 the General Laws, is hereby amended by striking out the words “board of aldermen” and  
4 inserting in place thereof the following words:- city council.

5           SECTION 2. Section 6 of title 2 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the  
6 words “board of aldermen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- city council.

7           SECTION 3. Section 7 of said title 2 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the  
8 words “board of aldermen”, each time they appear, and inserting in place thereof, in each  
9 instance, the following words:- city council.

10          SECTION 4. Said section 7 of said title 2 of said charter is hereby further amended by  
11 striking out the words “alderman-at-large”, each time they appear, and inserting in place thereof,  
12 in each instance, the following words:- councilor-at-large.

13 SECTION 5. Said section 7 of said title 2 of said charter is hereby further amended by  
14 striking out the words “office of alderman”, each time they appear, and inserting in place thereof,  
15 in each instance, the following words:- office of councilor.

16 SECTION 6. Section 8 of said title 2 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the  
17 words “board of aldermen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- city council.

18 SECTION 7. Section 10 of title 3 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the  
19 title and inserting in place thereof the following title:- Sec. 10. – City Council—Composition;  
20 election; terms.

21 SECTION 8. Said section 10 of said title 3 of said charter is hereby further amended by  
22 striking out the words “board of aldermen”, each time they appear, and inserting in place thereof,  
23 in each instance, the following words:- city council.

24 SECTION 9. Said section 10 of said title 3 of said charter is hereby further amended by  
25 striking out the word “aldermen” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- councilors.

26 SECTION 10. Said section 10 of said title 3 of said charter is hereby further amended by  
27 striking out the word “alderman” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- councilor.

28 SECTION 11. Said section 10 of said title 3 of said charter is hereby further amended by  
29 striking out the word “board” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- council.

30 SECTION 12. Section 11 of said title 3 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out  
31 the words “board of aldermen”, each time they appear, and inserting in place thereof, in each  
32 instance, the following words:- city council.

33 SECTION 13. Said section 11 of said title 3 of said charter is hereby further amended by  
34 striking out the word “board” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- council.

35 SECTION 14. The title of section 12 of said title 3 of said charter is hereby amended by  
36 striking out the word “aldermen” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- councilors.

37 SECTION 15. Said section 12 of said title 3 of said charter is hereby further amended by  
38 striking out the words “aldermen-elect” and inserting in place thereof the following words:-  
39 councilors-elect.

40 SECTION 16. Said section 12 of said title 3 of said charter is hereby further amended by  
41 striking out the words “board of aldermen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:-  
42 city council.

43 SECTION 17. Said section 12 of said title 3 of said charter is hereby further amended by  
44 striking out the words “alderman-elect” and inserting in place thereof the following words:-  
45 councilor-elect.

46 SECTION 18. Section 13 of said title 3 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out  
47 the words “board of aldermen”, each time they appear, and inserting in place thereof, in each  
48 instance, the following words:- city council.

49 SECTION 19. Said section 13 of said title 3 of said charter is hereby further amended by  
50 striking out the word “board”, each time it appears, and inserting in place thereof, in each  
51 instance, the following word:- council.

52 SECTION 20. Section 15 of said title 3 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out  
53 the words “board of aldermen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- city council.

54 SECTION 21. Said section 15 of said title 3 of said charter is hereby further amended by  
55 striking out the word “board” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- council.

56 SECTION 22. Section 16 of said title 3 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out  
57 the words “board of aldermen”, each time they appear, and inserting in place thereof, in each  
58 instance, the following words:- city council.

59 SECTION 23. Said section 16 of said title 3 of said charter is hereby further amended by  
60 striking out the word “board” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- council.

61 SECTION 24. Said title 3 of said charter is hereby further amended by striking out  
62 section 17 and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

63 Sec.17. – Powers and duties of city council.

64 (a) The city council shall, except as otherwise provided in this charter, have and exercise  
65 the powers and duties set forth in this section.

66 (b) The city council shall have all the powers, authorities and duties of towns, boards of  
67 aldermen, city councils and common councils of cities under the General Laws; provided,  
68 however, that all appointments required by law to be made by the mayor and aldermen shall be  
69 made by the mayor, subject to confirmation by the city council.

70 (c) The city council shall have all the powers, authorities and duties now held by the city  
71 of Somerville, the city council, the common council, the board of aldermen or the board of  
72 mayor and aldermen of Somerville, by special laws.

73 (d) Subject to the veto power of the mayor, as provided in this charter, the city council  
74 shall have the power, without appeal from its decision, to lay out, locate anew, alter, widen and

75    discontinue public ways and streets and to order specific repairs or a change of grade therein; to  
76    order the construction of sidewalks and of sewers and to take real estate therefore. Any such  
77    taking shall be made under chapter 79 of the General Laws, and any person injured in the  
78    person’s real estate by acts done by the council hereunder may recover damages under said  
79    chapter 79. No public way or street shall be laid out, located anew, changed as to grade or  
80    otherwise, widened or discontinued, until a public hearing has been held after notice given in  
81    accordance with the General Laws relating to public ways. Said hearing may be adjourned from  
82    time to time.

83           (e) The city council shall have the power to make ordinances and to affix penalties for the  
84    violation thereof. The penalty for the violation of any ordinance, rule or regulation adopted or  
85    issued in pursuance thereof shall be a fine of not more than \$300 for each offense; provided,  
86    however, that when a higher penalty is permitted by the General Laws, such higher penalty shall  
87    be the maximum for each offense.

88           SECTION 25. Section 18 of said title 3 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out  
89    the words “board of aldermen”, each time they appear, and inserting in place thereof, in each  
90    instance, the following words:- city council.

91           SECTION 26. Section 21 of title 4 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the  
92    words “board of aldermen”, each time they appear, and inserting in place thereof, in each  
93    instance, the following words:- city council.

94           SECTION 27. Section 23 of said title 4 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out  
95    the words “board of aldermen” and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following  
96    words:- city council.

97 SECTION 28. Said section 23 of said title 4 of said charter is hereby further amended by  
98 striking out the word “board”, each time it appears, and inserting in place thereof, in each  
99 instance, the following word:- council.

100 SECTION 29. Section 24 of said title 4 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out  
101 the words “board of aldermen”, each time they appear, and inserting in place thereof, in each  
102 instance, the following words:- city council.

103 SECTION 30. Said section 24 of said title 4 of said charter is hereby further amended by  
104 striking out the word “board”, each time it appears, and inserting in place thereof, in each  
105 instance, the following word:- council.

106 SECTION 31. Section 25 of said title 4 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out  
107 the words “board of aldermen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- city council.

108 SECTION 32. Section 27 of said title 4 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out  
109 the words “board of aldermen”, each time they appear, and inserting in place thereof, in each  
110 instance, the following words:- city council.

111 SECTION 33. Said section 27 of said title 4 of said charter is hereby further amended by  
112 striking out the word “board”, each time it appears, and inserting in place thereof, in each  
113 instance, the following word:- council.

114 SECTION 34. Section 28 of title 5 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the  
115 words “board of aldermen”, each time they appear, and inserting in place thereof, in each  
116 instance, the following words:- city council.

117 SECTION 35. Section 31 of title 6 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the  
118 words “board of aldermen”, each time they appear, and inserting in place thereof, in each  
119 instance, the following words:- city council.

120 SECTION 36. Section 36 of said title 6 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out  
121 the words “board of aldermen”, each time they appear, and inserting in place thereof, in each  
122 instance, the following words:- city council.

123 SECTION 37. Section 38 of said title 6 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out  
124 the words “board of aldermen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- city council.

125 SECTION 38. Section 39 of said title 6 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out  
126 the words “board of aldermen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- city council.

127 SECTION 39. Section 40A of said title 6 of said charter is hereby amended by striking  
128 out the words “board of aldermen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- city  
129 council.

130 SECTION 40. Section 40B of said title 6 of said charter is hereby amended by striking  
131 out the words “board of aldermen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- city  
132 council.

133 SECTION 41. Section 40C of said title 6 of said charter is hereby amended by striking  
134 out the words “board of aldermen”, each time they appear, and inserting in place thereof, in each  
135 instance, the following words:- city council.

136 SECTION 42. Section 40D of said title 6 of said charter is hereby amended by striking  
137 out the words “board of aldermen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- city  
138 council.

139 SECTION 43. Section 42 of said title 6 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out  
140 the words “board of aldermen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- city council.

141 SECTION 44. Section 45 of said title 6 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out  
142 the word “aldermen”, each time it appears, and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the  
143 following words:- councilors.

144 SECTION 45. Section 46 of title 7 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the  
145 words “board of aldermen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- city council.

146 SECTION 46. Section 46D of said title 7 of said charter is hereby amended by striking  
147 out the words “board of aldermen”, each time they appear, and inserting in place thereof, in each  
148 instance, the following words:- city council.

149 SECTION 47. The title of section 47 of said title 7 of said charter is hereby amended by  
150 striking out the word “aldermen” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- councilors.

151 SECTION 48. Said section 47 of said title 7 of said charter is hereby further amended by  
152 striking out the words “board of aldermen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:-  
153 city council.

154 SECTION 49. Section 48 of said title 7 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out  
155 the words “board of aldermen”, each time they appear, and inserting in place thereof, in each  
156 instance, the following words:- city council.



157           SECTION 50. Section 50 of said title 7 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out  
158 the words “board of aldermen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- city council.”