

HOUSE No. 4413

[LOCAL APPROVAL RECEIVED.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

David L. Flynn, Marc R. Pacheco

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act to provide the voters of the town of bridgewater a choice of charters for new forms of government.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
David L. Flynn	8th Plymouth
Marc R. Pacheco	First Plymouth and Bristol

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

An Act to provide the voters of the town of Bridgewater a choice of charters for new forms of government.

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. At the first regular or special municipal election held in and for the Town of
2 Bridgewater after the effective date of this Act, including a special election just for the purpose of the
3 questions set forth in this Act, the voters of the town of Bridgewater shall be afforded an opportunity to
4 vote on the following ballot questions. In the event that this Act takes effect prior to April 24, 2010, the
5 date of the presently scheduled 2010 annual election of the town, then the town may proceed with the
6 ballot questions as set forth in this Section 1 if practicable in obtaining ballots therefore, notwithstanding
7 the time periods set forth in Section 42C of Chapter 54 of the General Laws.

8 Question One: Shall the town adopt a new Charter for a Town Manager-Town Council form of
9 Government as set forth in the Act to Provide the Voters of the Town of Bridgewater a Choice of Charters
10 for New Forms of Government

11 Yes----- No-----

12 Question Two: Shall the town adopt a new Charter for a Town Manager-Selectmen-Open Town Meeting
13 form of Government as set forth in the Act to Provide the Voters of the Town of Bridgewater a Choice of
14 Charters for New Forms of Government

15 Yes----- No-----

16 A summary of each form of government may be provided with the ballot questions, as may be prepared
17 by attorneys for the town.

18 Section 2. If neither Question One nor Question Two set forth in section 1 of this Act passes by a majority
19 of the votes cast, then neither form of government shall take effect and the Town of Bridgewater shall
20 continue with the present form of town meeting-selectmen Government. If either Question one or
21 Question two set forth in section 1 of this Act passes by a majority of the votes cast, then that form of
22 government that has obtained the majority favorable vote, shall take effect in accordance with the terms
23 set forth in the Charter so approved.

24 If both Question One and Question Two passes by a majority of the votes cast, then that Charter for a new
25 form of government that obtains the highest number of votes cast in favor shall take effect in accordance
26 with the terms set forth in the Charter so approved.

27 Section 3. Charter for a TOWN MANAGER-TOWN COUNCIL form of government. In the event that
28 the voters of the Town adopt the Charter for a Town Manager-Town Council Form of Government
29 pursuant to section 2 of this Act, the attached Charter shall become effective in accordance with its terms:

30 Section 4. Charter for a TOWN MANAGER-SELECTMEN-OPEN TOWN MEETING form of
31 Government. In the event that the voters of the Town adopt the Charter for a Town Manager-Selectmen-
32 Open Town Meeting Form of Government pursuant to sections 1 and 2 of this Act, the attached Charter
33 shall become effective in accordance with its terms;

34 The Board of Selectmen is authorized to consent to any non-substantive language changes as may be
35 proposed by the General Court or counsel for the General Court.