



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 322

February Session, 2026

House Bill No. 5256

House of Representatives, April 1, 2026

The Committee on Government Oversight reported through REP. DATHAN of the 142nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROCESS FOR INITIATING LOCAL LEGISLATION IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 2-14 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

3 The General Assembly shall enact no special legislation relative to the
4 powers, organization and form of government of any town, city,
5 borough or other unit of local government unless requested by a town,
6 city, borough or other unit of local government, in the manner
7 hereinafter prescribed, to enact such special legislation. A resolution
8 requesting the General Assembly to enact special legislation and
9 specifying the purpose of such legislation shall be adopted: (1) By a two-
10 thirds vote of the council or board of directors in any town having such
11 a body; of the board of aldermen, council or body charged with the duty
12 of making annual appropriations in any city or consolidated town and
13 city; of the board of burgesses in any borough or consolidated town and
14 borough; or of the board of directors or district committee in any district;

15 or (2) by the board of selectmen or by a majority vote of the town
 16 meeting or representative town meeting in any town not having a
 17 council or board of directors. A request for the enactment of special
 18 legislation by the General Assembly may also be initiated by a petition
 19 specifying the purpose of such legislation and signed by not less than
 20 ten per cent of the electors of the town, city, borough or other unit of
 21 local government as determined by the last-completed registry list and
 22 filed with the clerk of such town, city, borough or other unit of local
 23 government. Upon the filing of such petition, such clerk shall proceed
 24 forthwith to determine its sufficiency by comparing the names thereon
 25 with those contained in such registry list and shall certify its sufficiency
 26 or insufficiency. [Such clerk shall file with the Secretary of the State, not
 27 later than ten days prior to the convening of any session of the General
 28 Assembly in which such proposed legislation is to be introduced, a
 29 certified copy of the resolution as adopted or the text of the petition as
 30 signed.]

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2026	2-14

GOS *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill alters the existing process for initiating local legislation in the General Assembly by eliminating the requirement to file the proposal with the Secretary of the State (SOTS) ten days prior to the convening of the General Assembly, resulting in no fiscal impact.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5256*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROCESS FOR INITIATING LOCAL LEGISLATION IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.*****SUMMARY**

This bill eliminates a statutory requirement that a unit of local government (such as a town or taxing district) seeking a change to its special act powers (generally its charter) file a copy of the request with the secretary of the state before the legislative session begins.

With exceptions, the state constitution generally prohibits the legislature from adopting special acts regarding the powers, organization, terms of elective offices, or form of government of any single town, city, or borough (Conn. Const. Art. X, § 1). Relatedly, state statute requires that any special legislation concerning the powers, organization, or form of local government be requested by the affected unit of local government, generally through a resolution adopted by its legislative body or by citizen petition (see BACKGROUND).

Under current law, the local government unit's clerk must file the petition's text or a certified copy of the adopted resolution, as applicable, with the secretary of the state at least 10 days before the start of the legislative session in which it will be considered. The bill eliminates this filing requirement.

As under existing law, the legislature may opt to enact the requested legislation, but the statutory process does not automatically create a bill on which legislators can or must vote.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

BACKGROUND***Resolution or Petition Requesting Special Legislation***

Under state statute, a request for special legislation may be brought in three ways:

1. a two-thirds vote on a resolution endorsing the action, adopted by the (a) council or board of directors in a town; (b) board of aldermen, council, or body charged with making appropriations in a city or consolidated town and city; (c) board of burgesses in a borough or consolidated town and borough; or (d) board of directors or district committee in a district;
2. in a town without a council or board of directors, a resolution endorsing the action, adopted by (a) the board of selectmen or (b) a majority vote of the town meeting or representative town meeting; or
3. 10% of the local government unit's electors signing a petition supporting the action and filing it with the clerk.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Oversight Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 12 Nay 0 (03/17/2026)