



Measure #: 2026-053

TOWN COUNCIL MEASURE SUBMITTAL

Date: 2/9/2026	Submitted By: Town Manager	Telephone #: 508-699-0100
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MEASURE DESCRIPTION:

A proposal to amend Article V, Section 5-4(a) of the Town Charter to increase the membership of the Board of Health from three (3) members to five (5) members.

Signed:  Digitally signed by Michael D. Borg
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Date: 2026.02.02 10:47:17 -05'00'

PURPOSE AND JUSTIFICATION:

This measure originates from a formal recommendation of the Board of Health, which has discussed and evaluated the need to increase its membership over an extended period. The Board and Health Department leadership have met, reviewed operational demands, and engaged with the Charter Review Committee to assess the appropriate process and authority required to implement this change.

The primary purpose of this amendment is to improve governance continuity and quorum reliability. With a three-member board, the absence or scheduling conflict of even one member significantly limits the Board’s ability to conduct business. This creates operational challenges when addressing time-sensitive public health matters, regulatory decisions, or policy discussions. A five-member structure provides flexibility in achieving quorum, reduces the risk of meeting cancellations, and strengthens the Board’s ability to deliberate effectively.

The complexity and volume of public health responsibilities have increased in recent years, requiring sustained oversight, regulatory review, and community engagement. Expanding membership allows for broader professional perspectives, improved workload distribution, and stronger institutional continuity.

This proposal does not change the authority, duties, or scope of the Board of Health. It solely adjusts board composition to better align with current operational realities and to support stable, consistent public health governance for the community.

The Charter Review Committee has previously identified this change as a reasonable governance adjustment for Council consideration. The measure now moves forward at the request of the Board of Health and Health Department leadership.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Review by Town Attorney to confirm required amendment procedures.

ATTACHMENTS:

REFER TO SUB-COMMITTEE: Bylaw

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PURPOSE AND JUSTIFICATION CONTINUED: