

HB 312 - AS INTRODUCED

2023 SESSION

23-0454

05/10

HOUSE BILL **312**

AN ACT relative to petitions for warrant articles at a special meeting.

SPONSORS: Rep. Malloy, Rock. 24; Rep. Balboni, Rock. 38; Rep. Grote, Rock. 24; Rep. Maggiore, Rock. 23

COMMITTEE: Municipal and County Government

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ANALYSIS

This bill requires at least 10 percent of a town's registered voters to petition for warrant articles at special meeting.

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Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~  
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Three*

AN ACT relative to petitions for warrant articles at a special meeting.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1 1 Petitioned Warrant Articles; Special Meetings. Amend RSA 39:3 to read as follows:  
2 39:3 Articles.

3 **I.** Upon the written application of 25 or more registered voters or 2 percent of the registered  
4 voters in town, whichever is less, although in no event shall fewer than 10 registered voters be  
5 sufficient, presented to the selectmen or one of them not later than the fifth Tuesday before the day  
6 prescribed for an annual meeting, the selectmen shall insert in their warrant for such meeting the  
7 petitioned article with only such minor textual changes as may be required. Such corrections shall  
8 not in any way change the intended effect of the article as presented in the original language of the  
9 petition.

10 **II.** For the purposes of this section, the number of registered voters in a town shall be the  
11 number of voters registered prior to the last state general election. The right to have an article  
12 inserted in the warrant conferred by this section shall not be invalidated by the provisions of RSA  
13 32.

14 **III.** ~~[In towns with fewer than 10,000 inhabitants upon the written application of 50 or more~~  
15 ~~voters or 1/4 of the voters in town, whichever is fewer, and in towns with 10,000 or more inhabitants~~  
16 ~~upon the written application of 5]~~ **Upon the written application for warrant articles for a**  
17 **special meeting of at least 10** percent of the registered voters in the town, so presented not less  
18 than 60 days before the next annual meeting, the selectmen shall warn a special meeting to act upon  
19 any question specified in such application.

20 **IV.** The checklist for an annual or special town meeting shall be corrected by the supervisors  
21 of the checklist as provided in RSA 654:25-31. Those persons qualified to vote whose names are on  
22 the corrected checklist shall be entitled to vote at the meeting. The same checklist used at a  
23 recessed town meeting shall be used at any reconvened session of the same town meeting. In no  
24 event shall a special town meeting be held on the biennial election day.

25 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.