

HOUSE No. 557

By Mr. Ramsdell of Winchester, petition of William E. Kane (mayor) for legislation to revise the charter of the city of Woburn with respect to providing for referendum petitions. Cities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-Five.

AN ACT TO REVISE THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF WOBURN BY PROVIDING FOR REFERENDUM PETITIONS.

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 fifteen of chapter one hundred
2 and seventy-two of the acts of eighteen hundred and
3 ninety-seven is hereby amended by adding thereto
4 the following section: —

5 *Section 15A.* If within thirty days after final pas-
6 sage and approval of any ordinance, order, resolu-
7 tion or vote by the city council or school committee
8 causing an increased appropriation or expenditure for
9 a particular item in excess of the appropriation or ex-
10 penditure for such item in the preceding year, except
11 a revenue loan order, a petition signed by registered
12 voters of the city equal in number to at least ten per
13 cent of the total number of registered voters, is pre-
14 sented to the clerk of the city council or to the secre-
15 tary of the school committee, as the case may be, pro-

16 testing against such ordinance, order, resolution or
17 vote, or any part thereof, taking effect, the same shall
18 thereupon and thereby be suspended from taking
19 effect; and the city council or school committee, as
20 the case may be, shall immediately reconsider such
21 ordinance, order, resolution or vote or part thereof;
22 and if such ordinance, order, resolution or vote is not
23 entirely rescinded, the city council shall submit the
24 same, by the method herein provided, to a vote of the
25 registered voters of the city, either at the next regular
26 city election, or at a special election which may in the
27 discretion of the city council and mayor be called
28 for the purpose, and such ordinance, order, resolu-
29 tion or vote or part thereof shall forthwith become
30 null and void unless a majority of the registered voters
31 voting on the same at such election vote in favor
32 thereof.

33 The city clerk shall cause to be placed on the elec-
34 tion ballot the question, "Shall an (ordinance, order,
35 resolution or vote, causing an increased appropriation
36 or expenditure for a particular item in excess of the
37 appropriation or expenditure for such item in the
38 preceding year, as the case may be), passed by the
39 City Council or School Committee, as the case may
40 be (describing said ordinance, order, resolution or
41 vote), be approved?"

42 The petition described in this section shall be
43 termed a referendum petition and section thirty-eight
44 of chapter forty-three of the General Laws shall apply
45 to the procedure in respect thereto.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall be submitted to the
2 qualified voters of the city of Woburn for acceptance
3 at the next city election. The vote shall be taken by

4 ballot in answer to the following question: — “Shall
5 an act passed by the general court in the year nine-
6 teen hundred and forty-five, entitled, ‘An Act to
7 Revise the Charter of the City of Woburn by provid-
8 ing for Referendum petitions’, be accepted?” If a
9 majority of the registered voters voting at said elec-
10 tion vote in favor of the acceptance of this act the
11 same shall be effective upon the filing of a certified
12 copy of such vote with the office of the secretary of
13 the commonwealth.

