

By Ms. Resor of Acton, petition of Pamela P. Resor, Emile J. Goguen, Daniel J. Valianti and Janet W. O'Brien for legislation to further regulate special town meetings. Local Affairs.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Two.

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AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING SPECIAL TOWN MEETINGS.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law  
2 to the contrary, no special town meeting need be called for the  
3 purpose of ratifying reductions in town appropriations from  
4 budgets approved at the annual town meeting, unless a warrant  
5 for such meeting is presented in accordance with section ten of  
6 chapter thirty-nine. For purposes of this act local school  
7 committees and regional school district committees may also  
8 reduce such appropriations as a result of reduced local aid  
9 allotments resulting from reductions from the time of passage of  
10 the resolution by the general court indicating amounts of state  
11 aid to such towns, and the actual amounts of such assistance  
12 appropriated by the general court to such town for the fiscal year.

13 In the event the amount of such state aid has not been  
14 appropriated by the general court by May first of the year next  
15 prior to the beginning of the fiscal year, and if the amount of funds  
16 appropriated by the town exceeds the amount of state aid for said  
17 town and reductions in the town's appropriation are required and  
18 an increase in town property tax assessments is not required to  
19 conform to the vote of the town meeting and a proposition two  
20 and one-half vote, so-called, is not feasible, and if the selectmen  
21 of the town, the school committee and the regional school district  
22 committee, as the case may be, are in agreement and vote by  
23 majority vote, to approve such reductions in each area of

24 appropriation to meet the statutory requirement of a balanced  
25 budget for such town, no such special town meeting shall be  
26 required to ratify committee decisions concerning the final town  
27 budget.