

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 4551

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, July 15, 1999.

The committee on Taxation, to whom was recommitted the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1127) of Anne M. Paulsen relative to overrides of proposition 2½, so-called, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4551) ought to pass.

For the committee,

JOHN H. ROGERS.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

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### AN ACT RELATIVE TO LOCAL ELECTIONS.

*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 21C of chapter 59 of the General Laws, as appearing in  
2 the 1996 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out para-  
3 graph (m) in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the follow-  
4 ing new paragraph:—  
5 (m) A town may appropriate from the tax levy, from available  
6 funds, or from borrowing, contingent on the passage of a refer-  
7 endum question under paragraph (g), (i $\frac{1}{2}$ ), or (k), provided that:  
8 (1) the statement of the purpose of the appropriation shall be sub-  
9 stantially the same as the statement of purpose in the referendum  
10 question; (2) the appropriation vote shall not be deemed to take  
11 effect until the approval of the referendum question; (3) no elec-  
12 tion at which the referendum question appears on the ballot shall  
13 take place later than the September fifteenth following the date of  
14 an appropriation vote adopted at an annual town meeting, or  
15 ninety days after the date of the close of any other town meeting  
16 at which an appropriation vote was adopted; and (4) after a con-  
17 tingent appropriation from the tax levy, a tax rate for a town shall  
18 not be submitted for certification by the commissioner under  
19 section twenty-three until after a referendum question under para-  
20 graph (g), (i $\frac{1}{2}$ ), or (k) has been voted upon, or until the expiration  
21 of the time for holding an election at which the referendum ques-  
22 tion appears on the ballot, whichever period is shorter.