

SENATE No. 2524

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Patricia D. Jehlen

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act providing for a gender-neutral charter in the City of Somerville..

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>9/2/2021</i>
<i>Erika Uytterhoeven</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>9/2/2021</i>

SENATE No. 2524

By Ms. Jehlen, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2524) of Patricia D. Jehlen (with approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to provide for a gender-neutral charter in the City of Somerville.. Municipalities and Regional Government. [Local Approval Received.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act providing for a gender-neutral charter in the City of Somerville..

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 3 of title 1 of the charter of the city of Somerville, which is on file
2 in the office of the archivist of the commonwealth, as provided in section 12 of chapter 43B of
3 the General Laws, is hereby amended by striking out the word “male”, each time it appears.

4 SECTION 2. The second paragraph of section 7 of title 2 of said charter is hereby
5 amended by striking out the word “chairperson”, each time it appears, and inserting in place
6 thereof, in each instance, the following word:- chair.

7 SECTION 3. Section 13 of title 3 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the
8 word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- the mayor’s.

9 SECTION 4. Said section 13 of said title 3 of said charter is hereby further amended by
10 striking out the word “board”, each time it appears, and inserting in place thereof, in each
11 instance, the following word:- council.

12 SECTION 5. Section 16 of said title 3 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out
13 the words “If he approves thereof, he shall signify his approval by signing the same; but if not he
14 shall return the same with his objections to the city council” and inserting in place thereof the
15 following words:- If the mayor approves thereof, mayor shall signify approval by signing the
16 same; but if not the mayor shall return the same with all objections to the city council.

17 SECTION 6. Said section 16 of said title 3 of said charter is hereby further amended by
18 striking out the words “He may except from his approval of any ordinance, order, resolution or
19 vote which he has the power to veto” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- The
20 mayor may except from the approval of any ordinance, order, resolution or vote which the mayor
21 has the power to veto.

22 SECTION 7. Clause (b) of section 17 of said title 3 of said charter is hereby amended by
23 striking out the word “aldermen” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- City
24 Council.

25 SECTION 8. Title 4 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out section 20 and
26 inserting in place thereof the following section:-

27 The executive powers of the city shall be vested solely in the mayor and may be
28 exercised either personally or through the several officers and boards in their respective
29 departments under the mayor’s general supervision and control. In the case of a vacancy in any
30 office to which appointment is made by the mayor, the mayor may personally perform the duties
31 thereof but shall not be entitled to receive any salary or pay attached thereto. The mayor shall
32 hold office for the 2 municipal years beginning with the first Monday in January following the
33 mayor’s election, unless sooner removed, and until a successor is elected and qualified; provided,

34 however, that if elected to fill an existing vacancy, the newly elected mayor shall hold office
35 only for the remainder of the unexpired term.

36 SECTION 9. Section 23 of said title 4 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out
37 the first sentence and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- The mayor may, in
38 writing, suspend any executive officer and shall immediately report that action and the reason
39 therefor to the city council.

40 SECTION 10. Section 24 of said title 4 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out
41 the word "his" and inserting in place thereof the following words:- the mayor's.

42 SECTION 11. Said section 24 of said title 4 of said charter is hereby further amended by
43 striking out the word "He", the first time it appears, and inserting in place thereof the following
44 words:- The mayor.

45 SECTION 12. Said section 24 of said title 4 of said charter is hereby further amended by
46 striking out the word "he", the second time it appears, and inserting in place thereof the
47 following words:- the mayor.

48 SECTION 13. Section 25 of said title 4 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out
49 the words "The mayor shall cause the laws, ordinances and orders for the government of the city
50 to be enforced, and shall cause a record of all his official acts to be kept, and for that purpose and
51 to aid him in his official duties he may appoint a secretary and define his duties" and inserting in
52 place thereof the following words:- The mayor shall cause the laws, ordinances and orders for
53 the government of the city to be enforced and shall cause a record of all the mayor's official acts
54 to be kept and, for that purpose and to aid in accomplishing the official duties, the mayor may
55 appoint a secretary and define the secretary's duties.

56 SECTION 14. Section 28 of title 5 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the
57 word “chairman” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- chair.

58 SECTION 15. Said section 28 of said title 5 of said charter is hereby further amended by
59 striking out the word “committeeman”, each time it appears, and inserting in place thereof, in
60 each instance, the following words:- committee member.

61 SECTION 16. Section 29 of said title 5 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out
62 the word “chairman”, each time it appears, and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the
63 following word:- chair.

64 SECTION 17. Section 31 of title 6 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the
65 word “He”, the first and second time it appears, and inserting in place thereof, in each instance,
66 the following words:- The city clerk.

67 SECTION 18. Said section 31 of said title 6 of said charter is hereby further amended by
68 striking out the word “he”, the third time it appears.

69 SECTION 19. Said section 31 of said title 6 of said charter is hereby further amended by
70 striking out the word “his”, each time it appears, and inserting in place thereof, in each instance,
71 the following words:- the city clerk’s.

72 SECTION 20. Section 32 of said title 6 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out
73 the word “He”, the first time it appears, and inserting in place thereof the following words:- The
74 city treasurer and collector of taxes.

75 SECTION 21. Said section 32 of said title 6 of said charter is hereby further amended by
76 striking out the words “prescribe; he shall” and inserting in place thereof the following words:-
77 prescribe and shall.

78 SECTION 22. Subsection (a) of section 36 of said title 6 of said charter is hereby
79 amended by striking out second paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following
80 paragraph:-

81 The chair of the board of assessors shall serve full-time and shall be nominated as chair
82 by the mayor at the time of their appointment. The chair of the board shall also serve as the
83 department head in the administration of the department.

84 SECTION 23. The second paragraph of subsection (b) of said section 36 of said title 6 of
85 said charter is hereby amended by striking out the word “chairman” and inserting in place
86 thereof the following word:- chair.

87 SECTION 24. Subsection (g) of said section 36 of said title 6 of said charter is hereby
88 amended by striking out the word “chairman” and inserting in place thereof the following word:-
89 chair.

90 SECTION 25. Said subsection (g) of said section 36 of said title 6 of said charter is
91 hereby further amended by striking out the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the
92 following word:- their.

93 SECTION 26. Clause (1) of the last paragraph of said section 36 of said title 6 of said
94 charter is hereby amended by striking out the word “chairman” and inserting in place thereof the
95 following word:- chair.

96 SECTION 27. Section 40A of said title 6 of said charter is hereby amended by striking
97 out the word “he”, each time it appears.

98

99 SECTION 28. Section 40B of said title 6 of said charter is hereby amended by striking
100 out the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- the mayor’s.

101 SECTION 29. Section 42 of said title 6 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out
102 the word “him” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- said commissioner.

103 SECTION 30. Section 46 of title 7 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out the
104 word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- the mayor’s.

105 SECTION 31. Section 47 of said title 7 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out
106 the word “chairman” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- chair.

107 SECTION 32. Said section 47 of said title 7 of said charter is hereby further amended by
108 striking out the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- their.

109 SECTION 33. Section 50 of said title 7 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out
110 the word “his”, each time it appears, and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the
111 following word:- their.

112 SECTION 34. Said section 50 of said title 7 of said charter is hereby further amended by
113 striking out the word “him” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- the person.

114 SECTION 35. Section 54 of said title 7 of said charter is hereby amended by striking out
115 the word “male”.

116 SECTION 36. Section 1 of article II of the charter appendix of the city of Somerville,
117 which is on file in the office of the archivist of the commonwealth, as provided in section 12 of
118 chapter 43B of the General Laws, is hereby amended by striking out the word “his” and inserting
119 in place thereof the following words:- that member’s.

120 SECTION 37. Section 4 of article IV of said charter appendix is hereby amended by
121 striking out the word “chairman”, each time it appears, and inserting in place thereof, in each
122 instance, the following word:- chair.

123 SECTION 38. Section 7 of said article IV of said charter appendix is hereby amended by
124 striking out the words “shall be entered his residence on the preceding first day of January or on
125 any subsequent day when he became a resident of said city” and inserting in place thereof the
126 following words:- shall be entered their residence on the preceding first day of January or on any
127 subsequent day when the voter became a resident of said city.

128 SECTION 39. Said section 7 of said article IV of said charter appendix is hereby further
129 amended by striking out the words “the place at which he was listed by said board” and inserting
130 in place thereof the following words:- the place at which each person was listed by said board.

131 SECTION 40. Said section 7 of said article IV of said charter appendix is hereby further
132 amended by striking out the words “and shall have appeared and satisfied them of his right to
133 have his name so entered” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- and shall have
134 appeared and satisfied them of the person’s right to have their name so entered.

135 SECTION 41. Section 7 of article IV of said charter appendix is hereby further amended
136 by striking out the words “They shall forthwith enter in the annual register” and inserting in

137 place thereof the following words:- The board of election commissioners shall forthwith enter in
138 the annual register.

139 SECTION 42. Said section 7 of said article IV of said charter appendix is hereby further
140 amended by striking out the words “his name has not been so entered” and inserting in place
141 thereof the following words:- their name has not been so entered.

142 SECTION 43. Section 3 of article VI of said charter appendix is hereby amended by
143 striking out the word “his”, each time it appears and inserting in place thereof, in each instance
144 the following word:- their.

145 SECTION 44. Said section 3 of said article VI of said charter appendix is hereby further
146 amended by striking out the word “he”, the first time it appears, and inserting in place thereof the
147 following words:- such person.

148 SECTION 45. Said section 3 of said article VI of said charter appendix is hereby further
149 amended by striking out the words “he is”, the second and third time they appear, and inserting
150 in place thereof, in each instance, the following words:- they are.

151 SECTION 46. Section 5 of said article VI of said charter appendix is hereby amended by
152 striking out the words “(name of candidate) as a”.

153 SECTION 47. Said section 5 of said article VI of said charter appendix is hereby further
154 amended by striking out the word “him” and inserting in place thereof the following:- said
155 candidate.

156 SECTION 48. Section 8 of said article VI of said charter appendix is hereby amended by
157 striking out the word “chairman” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- chair.

158 SECTION 49. Said section 8 of said article VI of said charter appendix is hereby further
159 amended by striking out the words “he desires” and inserting in place thereof the following
160 words:- they desire.

161 SECTION 50. Section 9 of said article VI of said charter appendix is hereby amended by
162 striking out the word “he” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- any candidate.

163 SECTION 51. Said section 9 of said article VI of said charter appendix is hereby further
164 amended by striking out the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- any
165 candidate’s.

166 SECTION 52. Section 11 of said article VI of said charter appendix is hereby amended
167 by striking out the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- the board’s.

168 SECTION 53. Section 13 of said article VI of said charter appendix is hereby amended
169 by striking out the word “his” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- their.

170 SECTION 54. Section 1 of article VII of said charter appendix is hereby amended by
171 striking out the word “his”, each time it appears, and inserting in place thereof, in each instance,
172 the following word:- their.

173 SECTION 55. Said section 1 of said article VII of said charter appendix is hereby further
174 amended by striking out the word “chairman” and inserting in place thereof the following word:-
175 chair.

176 SECTION 56. Section 2 of said article VII of said charter appendix is hereby amended
177 by striking out the word “chairman” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- chair.

178 SECTION 57. Section 3 of said article VII of said charter appendix is hereby amended
179 by striking out the word “chairman” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- chair.

180 SECTION 58. Section 6 of said article VII of said charter appendix is hereby amended
181 by striking out the word “his”, each time it appears, and inserting in place thereof, in each
182 instance, the following word:- their.

183 SECTION 59. Said section 6 of said article VII of said charter appendix is hereby further
184 amended by striking out the word “him” and inserting in place thereof the following word:-
185 them.

186 SECTION 60. Said section 6 of said article VII of said charter appendix is hereby further
187 amended by striking out the word “chairman” and inserting in place thereof the following word:-
188 chair.