



THE GENERAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS
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***Governor Baker Signs Westborough Home Rule Petition
for the Department of Public Works into Law***

(BOSTON – 12/23/2022) – On December 15, 2022, Governor Baker signed *An Act relative to the Department of Public Works in the Town of Westborough* into law, after it was enacted in both the House and Senate earlier that week.

The bill gives the Town of Westborough Department of Public Works the powers and duties vested in law by the Facilities/Building and Grounds Department, the Highway Superintendents, the Water Commissioners, and the Tree Warden. The recommendation to incorporate Buildings and Grounds into Public Works was a recommendation of the Town’s [2020 Non-Public Safety Staffing Study](#). This change was approved at the 2021 Westborough Annual Town Meeting and was sent to the Legislature as a home rule petition.

This change will eliminate the budgetary and management overhead associated with maintaining a standalone Buildings and Grounds Department. Additionally, consolidating oversight of facility and fleet management practices under a single position will help centralize management oversight for these assets. In particular, the Facilities and Fleet Manager should play a critical role in evaluating capital needs associated with buildings, vehicles, and equipment and should participate in the Department’s efforts to prioritize future capital investments. This approach will help to ensure that DPW maintains a comprehensive overview of capital assets and infrastructure under its control and appropriately prioritizes capital investment decisions each year. Finally,

this consolidation provides the Town with a centralized structure for evaluating future facility maintenance and custodial needs, and for making appropriate operational decisions about how to meet those needs.

“Working with my colleagues in the Legislature to advance the Town’s reorganization filing was a priority for our office and I am very pleased that the Town of Westborough’s home rule petition to restructure the Department of Public Works has been signed into law,” said **Representative Hannah Kane (R-Shrewsbury)**.

“This legislation will assist Westborough in updating and improving their town charter. I am glad that our delegation was able to secure its passage before our legislative session concludes”, said **Representative Danielle Gregoire**.

“I’m proud to have worked together with my colleagues in the State House to get this home rule petition signed into law for the Town of Westborough,” said **Senator Michael Moore (D-Millbury)**. “Allowing the town to restructure the Department of Public Works will streamline town services while saving taxpayer dollars – a win/win.”

"I was proud to file this Westborough Home Rule petition with the entire Westborough legislative delegation, and provide greater support and flexibility for Westborough's municipal government and employees," said **Senator Jamie Eldridge (D-Marlborough)**

“The Town of Westborough appreciates the efforts of our delegation to support the passage of H3918, *An Act relative to the department of public works in the town of Westborough*. This bill will allow the Town to implement a recommendation of its staffing study and centralize facilities asset management under the Director of the Department of Public Works” said **Westborough Select Board Chair Ian Johnson**.

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