

City of Northampton

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council

June 15, 2023

Upon the recommendation of Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra

23.343 An Order Amending the Charter to Increase the Number of Forbes Library Trustees

Now, Therefore be it Ordered, that

AN ACT AMENDING THE SPECIAL ACT CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON.

WHEREAS, The Trustees of the Forbes Library were created in the late 19th century under the will of the Honorable Charles Edward Forbes, as part of Judge Forbes's vision to create a public library for the benefit of the citizens of Northampton. All Trustees are elected and serve in a voluntary capacity, without compensation.

WHEREAS, Prior to 1982, the Trustees consisted of three members. In 1982, the Hampshire Probate and Family Court approved the petition of the Trustees to increase the number of Trustees to five.

WHEREAS, Since the increase to five Trustees, the Library has experienced continued growth as its role within Northampton and its functions have significantly diversified, partly as a result of the digital revolution. Given that increase, it has become increasingly difficult for the existing five Trustees to properly handle the workload associated with the oversight of the Library.

WHEREAS, On March 23, 2023, the Trustees voted to authorize a petition to the Hampshire Probate and Family Court to increase the number of Trustees to seven.

WHEREAS, In order to increase the number of Trustees, the city council must authorize a petition to the legislature to amend section 5.1 of the Northampton City Charter.

Voted, to petition the General Court to the end that legislation be adopted precisely as follows. The General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill unless the mayor approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court. The mayor is hereby authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purposes, which is to improve the governance of the Forbes Library in the city of Northampton, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

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

Chapter 277 of the Acts of 2012, shall be amended by deleting in the first sentence of section 5.1 the word “Five” and inserting in its place the word “Seven.”