



## TOWN OF WESTFORD

*Bylaw Review Committee*

*Town Hall – Conference Room B – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor*

**Wednesday, January 28, 2026**

**5:30 pm**

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- **Agenda**
  - **Call to Order**
  - **Discussion of proposed bylaws on the March 28, 2026 Annual Town Meeting Warrant**

### **General Bylaw Amendments**

**Authorize Digital-only Legal Notices**

**Select Board**

**To see if the Town will vote to.....**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board, on behalf of the Town, to petition the General Court for passage of a special law substantially as provided below. The Legislature may make clerical or editorial changes in form only to the bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the Legislature. The Select Board is hereby authorized to approve amendments that shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition or take any other action in relation thereto.

### **AN ACT ALLOWING “PRINT-FREE” DIGITAL LEGAL NOTICES FOR THE TOWN OF WESTFORD**

•**SECTION 1. Purpose.** The purpose of this act is to allow the Town of Westford, including the Select Board, the School Committee, the Planning Board, and all other elected or appointed boards and committees, or municipal officials, to satisfy the legal notice requirements entirely by digital publications in light of the lack of

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an available adequate print newspaper in the community.

- **SECTION 2. Process.** Where legal notice in a newspaper or a newspaper of general circulation is required by statute, bylaw, or judicial order, alternative means of posting such notice, as specified in section 3 of this Act, may be used if approved by a majority vote of the public body or at the discretion of the municipal official legally required to post such notice.
  
- **SECTION 3. Means of Legal Notice Publication.** Notwithstanding MGL chapter 4, section 13 (b) and subject to Section 2 of this Act, whenever legal notice in a newspaper or newspaper of general circulation is required by statute, bylaw, or judicial order, such notice requirement shall be satisfied by posting not in one or more of the following places:
  - A. A print newspaper of local or general circulation;
  - B. A newspaper's website;
  - C. Websites reporting local news and opinion which satisfy the criteria for digital publication as set forth in MGL chapter 4, section 13 (b)
  - D. A statewide website that may be maintained as a repository for such notices; or
  - E. A townwide website that may be maintained as a repository for such notices

**SECTION 4. Legal Requirements.** Nothing set forth in this Act shall be construed to alter or amend the timing requirements of the publication of legal notices set forth in the Massachusetts General Laws, bylaw, or judicial order.

**SECTION 5.** This Act shall take effect upon its passage.

**Adopt the Specialized Energy Code Select Board**

**To see if the Town will vote to.....**

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter 150 of the Town's General Bylaws, Stretch Energy Code, by deleting the Chapter in its entirety and replacing it with the following new Chapter 150, entitled "Specialized Energy Code", for the purpose of regulating the design and construction of buildings for the effective use of energy and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, pursuant to the entirety of 225 CMR 22 and 23 including Appendices RC and CC, including future editions, amendments or modifications thereto, with an effective date of January 1, 2027, a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk, the J.V. Fletcher Library, and on the Town's website:

**Chapter 150: Specialized Energy Code**

**§ 150-1 Definitions**

International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) – The International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) is a building energy code created by the International Code Council. It is a model code adopted by many state and municipal governments in the United States for the establishment of minimum design and

construction requirements for energy efficiency, and is updated on a three-year cycle. The baseline energy conservation requirements of the MA State Building Code are the IECC with Massachusetts amendments, as approved by the Board of Building Regulations and Standards and published in state regulations as part of 780 CMR.

Specialized Energy Code – Codified by the entirety of 225 CMR 22 and 23 including Appendices RC and CC, the Specialized Energy Code adds residential and commercial appendices to the Massachusetts Stretch Energy Code, based 3 on amendments to the respective net-zero appendices of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) to incorporate the energy efficiency of the Stretch energy code and further reduce the climate impacts of buildings built to this code, with the goal of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions from the buildings sector no later than 2050.

Stretch Energy Code - Codified by the combination of 225 CMR 22 and 23, not including Appendices RC and CC, the Stretch Energy Code is a comprehensive set of amendments to the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) seeking to achieve all lifecycle cost-effective energy efficiency in accordance with the Green Communities Act of 2008, as well as to reduce the climate impacts of buildings built to this code.

#### **§ 150-2 Purpose**

The purpose of 225 CMR 22.00 and 23.00 including Appendices RC and CC, also referred to as the Specialized Energy Code is to provide a more energy efficient and low greenhouse gas emissions alternative to the Stretch Energy Code or the baseline Massachusetts Energy Code, applicable to the relevant sections of the building code for both new construction and existing buildings.

#### **§ 150-3 Applicability**

This energy code applies to residential and commercial buildings.

#### **§ 150-4 Specialized Code**

The Specialized Code, as codified by the entirety of 225 CMR 22 and 23 including Appendices RC and CC, including any future editions, amendments, or modifications, is herein incorporated by reference into the Town of Westford General Bylaws, Chapter 150.

The Specialized Code is enforceable by the Local Building Inspector or Building Commissioner.

Or act in relation thereto.

**To see if the Town will vote to.....**

**§ XX-1 Purpose and intent**

This bylaw prohibits the installation and use of cryptocurrency machines (also known as Bitcoin ATMs, Bitcoin Teller Machines (BTMs), or Virtual Currency Kiosks)(“Virtual Currency Kiosks”), in the Town of Westford.

Virtual Currency Kiosks allow users to buy or sell virtual or cryptocurrencies using cash or debit/credit cards. They have become a significant instrument in financial fraud and scams nationwide.

Criminals use Virtual Currency Kiosks because of anonymity, the avoidance of third-party financial intermediaries validating the transaction, and the fact that the transactions are irrevocable.

The Westford Police Department has limited resources to investigate, pursue and prosecute these types of criminal activities. In addition, these virtual transactions allow transfers of funds overseas, impeding the ability of any U.S. law enforcement agency to recover such funds. This bylaw is one step in attempting to limit the impact of illicit Virtual Currency Kiosk use on Westford residents. The purpose of this bylaw is to prohibit the use of Virtual Currency Kiosks within the Town as necessary and appropriate to prevent crime, protect personal property, and promote the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Westford.

**§ XX-2 Definitions**

“Person” means any individual, partnership, corporation, firm, association or group owning, operating, or hosting a Virtual Currency Kiosk.

“Host” means any Person who owns or has lawful control of real property in the Town of Westford who allows any other person to place or operate a Virtual Currency Kiosk.

“Virtual Currency” or “Cryptocurrency” means any type of digital representation of value that is not government issued legal tender that: (1) is used as a medium of exchange, unit of account, or store of value; and (2) is not money, whether or not denominated in money, and thus does not have legal tender status. Virtual Currency includes brand names such as Bitcoin, Ethereum, Dash, Monero, Litecoin, and any other digital representation of value meeting the definition in this bylaw, regardless of the name given by the Virtual Currency Kiosk Operator. Virtual currency does not include transactions where a merchant grants, as part of a rewards program, value that cannot be exchanged with the merchant for money, bank credit, or virtual currency. It also does not include digital representation of value issued by or on behalf of a publisher used solely within an online game.

"Virtual Currency Kiosk" means a physical electronic terminal located in an area accessible to the general public acting as a mechanical agent of the virtual currency kiosk operator to enable the virtual currency kiosk operator to facilitate the exchange of virtual currency for money, bank credit or other virtual currency, including, but not limited to, by: (i) connecting directly to a separate virtual currency exchange that performs the actual virtual currency transmission; or (ii) drawing upon the virtual currency in the possession of the electronic terminal's

operator.

“Virtual Currency Kiosk Operator.” A person that engages in virtual currency business activity through a Virtual Currency Kiosk.

**§ XX-3 Virtual Currency Kiosks prohibited**

No person shall host, allow, operate, permit, locate or place a Virtual Currency Kiosk within any location in the Town of Westford that is open to and accessible by members of the public.

All publicly accessible Virtual Currency Kiosks existing in the Town as of the Effective Date of this bylaw shall be removed within (60) sixty days after the Effective Date. This section does not apply to any virtual currency transfers that are conducted without the use of a Virtual Currency Kiosk and does not intend to interfere with other types and methods of virtual currency transfers.

The prohibition in this bylaw applies to the Virtual Currency Kiosk Operator and the any person acting as a Host for a Virtual Currency Kiosk.

**§ XX-4 Administration and enforcement.**

A. This bylaw may be enforced by, any Police Officer of the Town of Westford, or any agent duly appointed by the Select Board (the “Enforcement Authority”).

B. This bylaw may be enforced through non-criminal disposition pursuant to Massachusetts General Law c. 40, § 21D and Chapter One, § 1.3 of the Town of Westford General bylaws. In the event of such disposition, and subject to the safeguards of § 21D, any person that violates any provision of this bylaw shall be subject to the following penalties:

(1) Upon the first violation, the Enforcement Authority shall provide the violator with written notice of the violation. The written notice shall also state that the violator has (30) thirty days after receiving such notice to cure the violation before the imposition of a fine.

(2) After the 30-day cure period, if the violation has not been cured, the Enforcement Authority shall impose the following fines:

- (a) A fine of \$100 for the first violation following receipt of the written notice referred to in Subsection B (1) above;
- (b) A fine of \$200 for the second violation; and
- (c) A fine of \$300 for any further violation.

(3) Each day that the violator continues to operate the Virtual Currency Kiosk shall constitute a separate violation of this bylaw. Fines are cumulative and each day or portion thereof shall constitute a separate offense.

D. This bylaw may be enforced by indictment or on complaint brought in a court of competent jurisdiction. Each day or portion thereof shall constitute a separate offense. If more than one, each condition violated shall constitute a separate offense.

E.

The Town may enforce this bylaw or enjoin violations thereof through any lawful process, and the election of one remedy by the Town shall not preclude enforcement through any other lawful means.

**§ XX-5 Severability**

The provisions of this bylaw are hereby declared to be severable. If any provision, paragraph, sentence, or clause of this bylaw or the application thereof to any person, establishment, or circumstances shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions or application of this bylaw.