

**TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Pursuant to Section MGL Ch 40A, Sec. 5, notice is hereby given that the Bridgewater Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at 7:00pm in the Academy Building Council Chambers, 66 Central Square, on proposed Ordinance D-FY25-019: Adoption of Clause 22I of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5 (“HERO Act”) and Ordinance D-FY25-020: Adoption of Clause 22J of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59 Section 5 (“HERO Act”). Both Ordinances can be viewed on the Town’s website at www.bridgewaterma.org and are on file with the Town Council Clerk.

Noticed in the 4/21/26 Enterprise.



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Johnny Loreti, Councilor
Date Introduced: 4/8/2025
First Reading: 4/8/2025
Second Reading: 6/3/2025
Amendments Adopted: 4/07/2026
Third Reading: 5/5/2026
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Ordinance D-FY25-019: Adoption of Clause 22I of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5 (“HERO Act”)

WHEREAS, the HERO Act mandates that property tax exemptions under clauses 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22E, or 22F shall be increased annually by the amount equal to the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for that year, as determined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Revenue shall annually inform each municipality of the amount of such increase to ensure that veterans' exemptions maintain their value over time; and

WHEREAS, the HERO Act helps provide meaningful and sustainable financial relief to eligible veterans.

NOW THEREFORE, in accordance with Section 2-06 of the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter, the Town Council hereby adopts the following as a General Ordinance of the Town:

SECTION 1: PURPOSE

The purpose of this ordinance is to adopt Clause 22I of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5, in order to provide CPI-adjusted property tax exemptions to eligible veterans beginning in Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27).

SECTION 2: ADOPTION OF CLAUSE 22I – CPI-ADJUSTED PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

Pursuant to Clause 22I, the Town of Bridgewater shall adjust property tax exemptions for eligible veterans based on the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI). The exemption amounts shall be revised each fiscal year in accordance with the CPI as determined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The projected FY26 adjustment is 3.3%.

- **Eligibility:** Veterans currently receiving property tax exemptions under Chapter 59, Section 5.

PUBLIC HEARING
VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL

SECTION 3: IMPLEMENTATION & ADMINISTRATION

- (a) The Bridgewater Board of Assessors shall be responsible for administering these exemptions and applying annual CPI adjustments.
- (b) Eligible veterans must meet existing requirements under G.L. c. 59, §5 and submit applications as required by the Bridgewater Assessor’s Office.
- (c) The Veterans’ Services Office shall confirm the eligibility of applicants under Clauses 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22E, or 22F.
- (d) The exemptions shall be reflected in the tax bills issued for the applicable fiscal year.

SECTION 4: EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall take effect upon passage and approval as required by law and shall be applicable beginning Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27).

SECTION 5: SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this ordinance is found to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4/8/25: First reading - referred to Rules & Procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rules & Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5/27/25: Voted 3-0 to recommend with amendments
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6/3/25: Second Reading - referred to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Budget & Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6/17/25: Voted 3-0 to recommend
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finance Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3/2/26: Voted to recommend to be sent back to Town Council for corrections which was duly seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4/7//26: Referred to advertising with amendments.

PUBLIC HEARING
VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL

Attachments:

None



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Johnny Loreti, Councilor
Date Introduced: 5/20/2025
First Reading: 5/20/2025
Second Reading: 4/7/2026
Amendments Adopted: 4/7/2026
Third Reading: 5/5/2026
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

General Ordinance D-FY25-020: Adoption of Clause 22J of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5 (“HERO Act”)

WHEREAS, the HERO Act provides for increased property tax exemptions to service-connected disabled veterans to further recognize and support their service; and

WHEREAS, Clause 22J of the Act authorizes municipalities to double current exemption amounts for disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Bridgewater seeks to offer enhanced financial relief to those with service-connected disabilities.

NOW THEREFORE, in accordance with Section 2-06 of the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter, the Town Council hereby adopts the following as a General Ordinance of the Town:

SECTION 1: PURPOSE

The purpose of this ordinance is to adopt Clause 22J of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5, in order to increase property tax exemptions for service-connected disabled veterans beginning in Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27).

SECTION 2: ADOPTION OF CLAUSE 22J – INCREASED EXEMPTIONS FOR DISABLED VETERANS

Pursuant to Clause 22J, the Town of Bridgewater shall increase property tax exemptions for service-connected disabled veterans by up to 50% of their current exemption amount, effective FY27.

- **Veterans with a 10%-90% disability rating** shall receive an exemption increase from \$400 to \$600.
- **Veterans with a 100% disability rating** shall receive an exemption increase from \$1,000 to \$1,500.

PUBLIC HEARING
VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL

SECTION 3: IMPLEMENTATION & ADMINISTRATION

- (a) The Bridgewater Board of Assessors shall be responsible for administering these exemptions.
- (b) Eligible veterans must meet existing requirements under G.L. c. 59, §5 and submit applications as required by the Bridgewater Assessor’s Office.
- (c) The Veterans’ Services Office shall confirm the eligibility of applicants under Clauses 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22E, or 22F.
- (d) The exemptions shall be reflected in the tax bills issued for the applicable fiscal year.

SECTION 4: EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall take effect upon passage and approval as required by law and shall be applicable beginning Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27).

SECTION 5: SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this ordinance is found to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5/20/25: First Reading - referred to Rules & Procedures, Budget & Finance and Finance Committee
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rules & Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5/27/25: Voted 3-0 to recommend
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finance Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6/2/25: Voted to recommend
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Budget & Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6/3/25: Voted 3-0 to continue• 6/17/25: Voted 3-0 to continue• 2/9/26: Voted 3-0 to continue• 3/17/26: Voted 2-0 to recommend with amendments.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4/7/26: Referred to advertising with amendments.

Attachments: None

PUBLIC HEARING
VOICE VOTE FOR APPROVAL