



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
LAW DEPARTMENT

February 11, 2020

City Council
City of Somerville
Somerville, MA 02143

Re: Legislative Matters Committee
Item #208703

Dear Honorable City Councilors:

During the Legislative Matters Committee's evaluation of the Administration's Home Rule Petition to authorize the City to Appoint Police Cadets, Councilors asked the Law Department to describe the mechanism for revoking or nullifying a home rule petition generally. The opinion of the Law Department is that, once passed by the state legislature and signed by the governor, a home rule petition is state law. It can be amended or revoked by another special act passed by the City and the state legislature and signed by the governor, examples include Charter amendments and changes to the city's licensing capabilities regarding liquor licenses. A home rule petition could include language that allows for revocation at the municipal level, but maintaining that language requires the approval of state legislature and governor's signature.

I believe this responds to the questions raised by the Legislative Matters Committee during the January 28th meeting.

Sincerely,

Julie M. McKenzie
Chief Labor Counsel