

TITLE: DUTY OF TOWN CLERK

WARRANT ARTICLE: To see if the Town will vote to create a new bylaw which will authorize the Town Clerk to make non-substantive editorial revisions to the General Bylaws to ensure consistent and appropriate sequencing, numbering, lettering, and formatting in compliance with the current document, or to do or act in any manner relative thereto.

EXPLANATION: The current General Bylaws have suffered from years of adding, deleting, and amending the document without changing the sequencing, numbering, lettering, pagination, etc. creating in some cases, a confusing document.

For example, in Division VII of the Bylaws, Article I was repealed by legislative act with the creation of the Wareham Redevelopment Authority in 2018. Consequently, Division VII is missing an Article I but contains Articles II, III, and IV. In another example, Division XIII contains two articles labeled Article I because at the 2022 Town Meeting, the second Article I was voted on and approved with that designation by the Attorney General with the mis-numbered Article. These are just two of several similar issues in the current Bylaws.

Had the Town Clerk had the authority to make "non-substantive changes to ensure consistent sequencing," these issues could have been avoided. Several other towns give such authority to their Town Clerk.

SUBMITTED BY: The Select Board at the request of the Bylaw Review Committee