



## House Bill 99

### *Municipalities – Annexed Land – Land Use and Density*

Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Government, Labor and Elections Committee

Date: February 3, 2026

From: County Commissioners of Worcester County

Worcester County opposes House Bill 99 – Municipalities – Annexed Land – Land Use and Density.

In situations where municipal comprehensive plans differ from county zoning, this bill would eliminate the transition period that has historically been associated with the annexation process. Under current law, the county commissioners have the ability to review and approve zoning classifications that would result in significantly higher density within five years of an annexation. This allows jurisdictions to thoughtfully and carefully plan, ensuring infrastructure needs are met and services like public safety can be expanded. This is critical because it is counties that are responsible for the funding of things like schools, jails, multimodal transportation infrastructure and the like.

The adjustments this bill makes to the annexation process open the door to a variety of problems, ranging from inundated roads to overwhelmed schools. The bill will reduce coordination between counties and municipalities and seems to prioritize municipal growth over county land use. It brings increased risks of development pressure as well as a greater potential for land use conflicts.

We urge you to provide House Bill 99 with an unfavorable report. Thank you.