

Rep. Maiola resigns seat; town seeks special election

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State Rep. Tony Maiola, R-Newport, resigned his seat in the New Hampshire House of Representatives Friday, citing health reasons.

The Newport Board of Selectmen plans to request a special election to fill the vacancy.

Maiola, a former state liquor commissioner, said he regretted having to leave his post, but was forced to do so because of his failing health. Maiola, who was elected last year to a term that was set to expire next November, said it was too difficult to make it back and forth to Concord.

"I'm very sorry that I had to leave, but I had no choice," Maiola said Monday.

Newport Selectman Betty Maiola, Tony Maiola's husband, said her husband underwent surgery in April and

is recovering, but has since injured his right arm and is in a great deal of pain.

"He is coming along very well," Betty Maiola said. "He's getting out and around town, but to stay on as representative, Tony and I had a discussion and came to a conclusion last Friday that he cannot do that at this point in time."

At a Newport Board of Selectmen meeting Monday night, State Rep. Beverly Rodeschin, R-Newport, who also serves as a selectman in Newport, suggested the town schedule a special election to elect a replacement for Maiola.

In her motion to the board, Rodeschin stressed that she wanted to gain the support of the other four towns in Congressional District 2 — Croydon, Goshen, Springfield and Washington — to hold the special election, which is estimated to cost

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about \$1,000.

"I don't want the other communities to think of Newport as a bully town and just go and have a special election," she said.

State law allows for any one community in a multitown district to request a special election.

Virginia Irwin, chairman of the board, said she didn't think the request to the state should be contingent on the other towns' support of the election.

"I don't really care if the other towns ask for it," Irwin said. "I think we need to replace that person."

Irwin said having a full slate of representatives in Concord is more important than the relatively low cost of the election and the support of the smaller towns in the district. "This is not the trickle down government effect, in my opinion," she said.

The selectmen voted to move forward with the request for a special election without making the request contingent on the agreement of the other towns in the district. Rodeschin said she still plans to approach

the other towns to seek their support.

Town Manager Dan O'Neill said he would send a letter to the governor and executive council regarding the special election request.