

Massachusetts House of Representatives Bill Summary

Bill #: H.2258

Title: An Act relative to the Cotuit Fire District

Sponsor: Rep. Kip Diggs

Committee: Municipalities and Regional Government

Hearing Date: 5/13/25

Prior history: H.5089 OTP (2023-2024)

Current Law: Chapter 328 of the Acts of 1926 established the Cotuit Fire District in the town of Barnstable. The law described the service area, powers and duties of the district, established a three-member elected prudential committee and provided for regular district meetings to take place to elect officers, raise money and appropriate funds for the operation of the fire district.

Chapter 244 of the Acts of 1935 authorized the Cotuit Fire District to supply itself and its inhabitants with water for extinguishing fires and for domestic use. The special act inserted language authorizing the district to borrow up to \$150,000 for these purposes. It also provided for a three-member elected board of water commissioners to act alongside the existing prudential committee.

Chapter 26 of the Acts of 2000 increased the borrowing limit to \$1,500,000.

Summary: Section 1 of the bill amends previous special acts by authorizing the board of water commissioners to recommend improvements on private property, with prior written approval of the property owners, and seek funds by vote of the district, to protect and enhance the quality of the water supply for the benefit of the residents of Cotuit.

Notes: While technically not a home-rule petition, at the May 29, 2024 Cotuit Fire District Meeting the language was approved as Article 24 by a majority vote.