

**Massachusetts House of Representatives**  
**Bill Summary**

**Bill #:** H.2320  
**Title:** An Act relative to the position of treasurer-collector in the town of Berkley  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Norman Orrall, Sen. Kelly Dooner  
**Committee:** Municipalities and Regional Government  
**Hearing Date:** 5/13/25

**Current Law:** MGL Chapter 41, Section 1B provides a method by which the voters of a town may choose to change an elected position (other than the select board or school committee) to an appointed one. The law also contains a provision authorizing a town to combine the elected positions of treasurer and collector into a single office, and to make that an appointed position, if the procedures set forth in the law are followed. Such changes require the majority vote of an annual or special town meeting and acceptance by the voters at the annual town election. In the case of a special town meeting, the vote must take place at least 60 days before the town election.

The incumbent elected officer shall continue to hold the position until the expiration of their term of office, unless they vacate it sooner. If the person is elected at the same election that the change is accepted, then they could continue to hold the position until the appointment is made. The term of office is for not more than 3 years unless otherwise provided by law.

**Summary:** Section 1 of the bill exempts the town of Berkley from contrary provisions of current state law and authorizes the creation of the appointed office of treasurer-collector, who would have all of the same powers, duties and responsibilities and be subject to the same liabilities and penalties of a treasurer and collector under the General Laws.

Section 2 authorizes the board of selectmen to appoint a treasurer-collector, who may after the opportunity for a hearing be removed. The selectmen may establish an employment contract for a period of up to 3 years. The contract would include a salary, benefits and other conditions of employment such as severance pay, reimbursement for official expenses, liability insurance and address conditions of discipline, termination, dismissal, reappointment, performance standards and leave benefits, all subject to annual appropriations.

Section 3 abolishes the elected positions of treasurer and collector and terminates their terms of office. The elected incumbents could continue to serve either until the expiration of their terms of office, unless they vacate the positions earlier, or until a new treasurer-collector is appointed, whichever occurs first.

Section 4 ensures that existing contracts and liabilities that in force when the act took effect shall continue to be in force and effect even though the elected offices of treasurer and collector have been abolished and consolidated into a single appointed position. All records, property and equipment of the offices of elected treasurer and collector would be transferred or assigned to the office of the appointed treasurer-collector.

Section 5 states that the act shall take effect upon its passage.

Notes: Legislation approved as Article 4 at the November 14, 2024 Special Town Meeting by a unanimous vote.