

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

**Bill #:** H.3952

**Title:** An Act authorizing Dartmouth Fire District No. 1 to appoint the position of treasurer

**Sponsor:** Rep. Christopher Markey

**Committee:** Municipalities and Regional Government

**Hearing Date:** 5/13/25

**Current Law:** MGL Chapter 41 governs the officers and employees of cities, towns and districts. Section 1A defines a district. Section 35 requires treasurers to post bonds for the faithful performance of their duties. Section 121 states that Chapter 41, Section 35 and Chapter 44, Section 55A shall apply to district treasurers.

MGL Chapter 44, Section 55A requires a treasurer to exercise due care when depositing the public's money in a trust company, co-operative bank or savings bank.

**Summary:** Section 1 of the bill exempts the Dartmouth Fire District No. 1 from contrary provisions of any general or special laws, including laws that may have been adopted by the district, in order to establish the appointed office of district treasurer.

The district's prudential committee would be authorized to appoint a treasurer, who could serve for a term of not more than three years. The contract would include a salary and other conditions of employment as the prudential committee would determine, all subject to annual appropriation by the district meeting.

The treasurer could be reappointed to serve another term at the prudential committee's discretion, as long as the reappointment occurs during the last year of the treasurer's term of office. The legislation also authorizes the prudential committee to suspend, terminate or otherwise discipline the treasurer as provided for in the employment contract.

Section 2 states that the act shall take effect upon its passage.