

Massachusetts House of Representatives Bill Summary

Bill #: H.4154

Title: An Act relative to the town of Richmond Free Public Library

Sponsor: Rep. Leigh Davis and Sen. Paul Mark

Committee: Municipalities and Regional Government

Hearing Date: June 24, 2025

\Current Law: Section 55 of Mass. General Laws Chapter 44 limits how and where public funds on deposit may be invested. It also places restrictions on the type of banking institution and prohibits a treasurer from investing in a bank account that they are associated with.

Chapter 78, Section 19B governs state aid for public libraries.

Summary: Section 1 of the bill exempts from any contrary law and authorizes the library board of trustees to invest current and future gifts and donations by the library in a separate interest-bearing account.

Section 2 provides for the act to take effect immediately.

Notes: Language approved as Article 25 at the May 21, 2024 Annual Town Meeting by a unanimous vote.

The Richmond Free Public Library was established in 1892 and is administered by a three-member board of trustees. In 1996 The Friends of the Richmond Library was established. It is a 501(c) (3) Ch.180 tax exempt corporation whose sole purpose is to support and enhance library service for the Richmond Free Public Library by fundraising and volunteering. A new library building was opened in 2023.