

**Massachusetts House of Representatives
Bill Summary**

Bill #: H.4721

Title: An Act relative to the board of water commissioners of the Dalton fire district

Sponsor: Rep. Leigh Davis and Sen. Paul Mark

Committee: Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government

Hearing Date: November 17 – November 21, 2025 written testimony only

Current Law: Chapter 137 of the Acts of 1884 established a water supply for the fire district located in the Town of Dalton. Section 9 provided for the election of a three-member board of water commissioners to serve staggered terms of three years each.

Section 1 of Chapter 7 of the Acts of 1997 amended the 1884 special act by adding language providing for the district treasurer and district clerk to be appointed by the board of water commissioners, with the incumbent treasurer and clerk serving out the remainder of their terms of office until their successors could be appointed.

Summary: Section 1 of the bill amends Section 9 of the 1884 special act by increasing the number of members on the board of water commissioners from three to five. It makes no changes to the existing powers and duties of the board but deletes outdated transitional language from when the board was first constituted in 1884.

Section 2 provides for the election of additional commissioners at the next annual meeting of the Dalton fire district, establishing staggered terms of office based upon the number of votes received by each of the 3 candidates elected to the office. At each subsequent election, either 1 or 2 persons would be elected to the board as terms expire, so as to maintain a five-member board with staggered three-year terms. The language also ensures that existing board members would continue to serve until their current terms have expired.