

Massachusetts House of Representatives
Bill Summary

Bill #: H.2251

Title: An Act establishing a special fund for the festival of the hills receipts for the town of Conway

Sponsor: Rep. Natalie Blais and Sen. Paul Mark

Committee: Municipalities and Regional Government

Hearing: 5/13/25

Prior History: H.5066 OTP (2023-2024)

Current Law: MGL Chapter 44, Section 53 states that all monies received by a city, town or district must be deposited into the general fund, except for certain specified funds such as those received from an insurance settlement, for water pollution control or to replace books and school supplies.

Summary: Section 1 of the bill authorizes the town of Conway to create a special fund, notwithstanding contrary provisions of the municipal finance law, for the purpose of depositing proceeds from the annual festival of the hills. This could also include any state, federal or other types of grants and any local appropriations for the same purpose.

Interest earned on the fund would be treated as general revenue, and any balance remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal year could carry over to successive fiscal years if not expended.

Proceeds from the fund would be used by the festival of the hills committee without further appropriation being required to pay all expenses for the festival and provide scholarship grants to graduating high school seniors in the town of Conway. No funds that were appropriated for the special fund would be used for such scholarships, however.

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

Notes: This language was approved as Article 31 at the June 1, 2024 Annual Town Meeting; declared approved by the town moderator.

Last year's festival took place on October 5th and 6th, 2024 It included a road race, bake sale, library book sale, music, art exhibit, food vendors, parade, raffle, turkey dinner, log-splitting contest, and skillet toss. According to the

festival website, \$2,000 in donations was raised for scholarships. The festival was also funded in part through a \$2,500 grant from the Mass. Cultural Council.