

HOUSE No. 4846

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Natalie M. Blais and Joanne M. Comerford

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act authorizing the elimination of the appointed tax collector/town clerk/treasurer in the town of Deerfield and the creation of an appointed town clerk and an appointed town treasurer-collector.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>	<i>5/18/2022</i>
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>5/18/2022</i>

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By Representative Blais of Sunderland and Senator Comerford, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4846) of Natalie M. Blais and Joanne M. Comerford (by vote of the town) that the town of Deerfield be authorized to eliminate the appointed tax collector/town clerk/treasurer in said town and create an appointed town clerk and an appointed town treasurer-collector. Municipalities and Regional Government. [Local Approval Received.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act authorizing the elimination of the appointed tax collector/town clerk/treasurer in the town of Deerfield and the creation of an appointed town clerk and an appointed town treasurer-collector.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 676 of the acts of 1972 is hereby repealed.

2 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the office of
3 town clerk for the town of Deerfield shall be separate from the office of treasurer and from the
4 office of the collector of taxes. The office of the town clerk shall be an appointive office. The
5 town clerk shall perform all functions of the town clerk's office and shall continue to be an ex-
6 officio member of the board of registrars in accordance with section 15 of chapter 51 of the
7 General Laws. The town clerk shall be appointed by the selectboard for a term of 1, 2 or 3 years,
8 and may be removed by the Deerfield selectboard at its discretion. The selectboard may enter
9 into a personal services contract with the town clerk to provide for salary, fringe benefits and
10 other conditions of employment, including, but not limited to, severance pay, reimbursement for

11 expenses incurred in the performance of the duties of office, liability insurance and conditions of
12 discipline, termination, dismissal, reappointment, performance standards and leave.

13 SECTION 3. The office of treasurer and the office of collector of taxes for the town of
14 Deerfield shall be separate from the office of the town clerk. The offices of town treasurer and
15 collector of taxes of the town of Deerfield shall be merged into 1 office to be known as treasurer-
16 collector. The office of the treasurer-collector shall be an appointive office. The treasurer-
17 collector shall have all the powers, perform the duties and be subject to the liabilities and
18 penalties now or hereafter conferred and imposed by law on town treasurers and town collectors
19 of taxes. The treasurer-collector shall be appointed by the selectboard for a term of 1, 2 or 3
20 years, and may be removed by the selectboard at its discretion. The selectboard may enter into a
21 personal services contract with the treasurer-collector to provide for salary, fringe benefits and
22 other conditions of employment, including, but not limited to, severance pay, reimbursement for
23 expenses incurred in the performance of the duties of office, liability insurance and conditions of
24 discipline, termination, dismissal, reappointment, performance standards and leave.

25 SECTION 4. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, nothing in this
26 act shall prevent the selectboard from appointing 1 person to serve as town clerk and treasurer-
27 collector.

28 SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon its passage.