

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2114**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Anne M. Gobi*

*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 board of selectmen of Hardwick to appoint the town collector.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Anne M. Gobi</i>	<i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i>
<i>Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr.</i>	<i>5th Worcester</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2114**

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By Ms. Gobi, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2114) of Anne M. Gobi and Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr. (by vote of the town) for legislation to authorize the board of selectmen of Hardwick to appoint the town collector. Municipalities and Regional Government. [Local Approval Received.]

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act authorizing the board of selectmen of Hardwick to appoint the town 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. Notwithstanding section 1 of chapter 41 of the General Laws or any other  
2 general or special law to the contrary there shall be a town collector for the town of Hardwick.  
3 The town collector shall have all the powers, perform the duties and be subject to the liabilities  
4 and penalties now or hereafter conferred and imposed by law on town collector of taxes. The  
5 town collector shall be appointed and may be removed, after the opportunity for a hearing by the  
6 board of selectmen of the town. The board of selectmen may establish an employment contract  
7 for the town collector for salary, fringe benefits and other conditions of employment, including,  
8 but not limited to, severance pay, reimbursement for expenses incurred in the performance of the  
9 duties of office, liability insurance and conditions of discipline, termination, dismissal,  
10 reappointment, performance standards and leave.

11           SECTION 2. Upon the effective date of this act, the elected office of town collector shall  
12 be abolished and the term of such office terminated; provided, however, that any incumbent of

13 such office serving on the effective date of this act shall continue to hold said office and to  
14 perform the duties thereof until the expiration of the term for which said individual was elected  
15 or until said individual otherwise vacates such office. After the expiration of the term of the  
16 incumbent town collector, or a sooner vacating of the office; the position shall be posted and  
17 published in a local newspaper, a search committee shall be formed to include: town assessor,  
18 town accountant, town treasurer, town administrator, finance committee chairperson and one  
19 public at large member to conduct preliminary interviews and shall provide the top three (3)  
20 candidates to the board of selectmen. The board of selectmen shall interview the recommended  
21 candidates and shall appoint a town collector as under section 1.

22 SECTION 3. No contracts or liabilities in force on the effective date of this act shall be  
23 affected by the abolition of the elected office of town collector and the appointment of town  
24 collector and the appointed town collector shall, in all respects, be the lawful successor of the  
25 office so abolished. All records, property and equipment of the office of the elected town  
26 collector shall be assigned to the office of the appointed town collector.

27 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage.