

Massachusetts Marine Trades Association
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HOUSE BILLS

Support Bills:

HB68 (Chapter 6 of 2017) - An Act to reorganize the Department of Public Safety

Testified in support of the proposed Office of Public Safety and Inspections within the Division of Professional Licensure, which will review licensing applications. *NOW LAW.*

Sponsor: Governor

Cosponsors: Former Rep. Heroux, Paul (D) ; Former Sen. Forry, Linda (D) ; Rep. Carvalho, Evandro (D); Rep. Decker, Marjorie (D); Rep. Diehl, Geoff (R); Rep. DuBois, Michelle (D); Rep. Farley-Bouvier, Tricia (D); Rep. Fernandes, Dylan (D); Rep. Garballey, Sean (D); Rep. Goldstein-Rose, Solomon (I); Rep. Gonzalez, Carlos (D); Rep. Holmes, Russell (D); Rep. Keefe, Mary (D); Rep. Lewis, Jack (D); Rep. Livingstone, Jay (D); Rep. Mirra, Leonard (R); Rep. Rogers, David (D); Rep. Ryan, Daniel (D); Rep. Tyler, Chynah (D); Rep. Walsh, Chris (D); Sen. Chang-Diaz, Sonia (D); Sen. DiDomenico, Sal (D)

Summary: Governor Baker's 'Article 87' reorganization of the Department of Public Safety, weighing in at 209 sections, would split the functions of the current Department of Public Safety between the Division of Professional Licensure and the Department of Fire Services. According to the Governor, this will enable the Commonwealth to consolidate licensing functions currently split across several secretariats. Specifically, this bill establishes an Office of Public Safety and Inspections to be housed within the Division of Professional Licensure (and part of the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development). It then transfers all of the non-fire-related functions of the Department of Public Safety to the Office of Public Safety and Inspections and the fire-related functions to the Department of Fire Services. This bill would also change the distribution of agencies under the undersecretaries within the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to more closely align with their areas of expertise. In addition, the bill makes technical changes to reflect the transfer of functions, removes outdated references, and updates antiquated language.

Status: Became law without Governor's signature (UNSIGNED)

Complete 01/25/17 - H - Filed in the House

History: 01/26/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight

01/30/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral

02/17/17 - Hearing Scheduled (2/22/17 11:00 AM - Joint Committee on State Administration & Regulatory Oversight B-1)

03/06/17 - S - Placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session - the question being "Shall this reorganization plan be approved?"

03/21/17 - House Session (3/22/17 11:00 AM House Chamber)

03/27/17 - H - Laid aside as moot (Rep. Nangle)

03/27/17 - G - Became Law pursuant to Article 87 of the Amendment to the Constitution

HB399 - An Act relative to boater safety to be known as the David Hanson Act

*MMTA submitted comments with suggested changes to the current bill text. The comments reflect key concerns MMTA has regarding the grace period for new buyers of boats, phased-in education for older boaters, and availability of safety courses

offered.*

Sponsor: Rep. Calter, Thomas (D)

Cosponsors: Rep. Ayers, Bruce (D); Rep. Cantwell, James (D); Rep. Garry, Colleen (D); Rep. Keefe, Mary (D); Rep. Vincent, RoseLee (D); Sen. Moore, Michael (D); Sen. O'Connor, Patrick (R)

Summary: Adds several new sections to GL 90B, the statute governing Motorboats, Other Vessels and Recreational Vehicles, to be called the David Hanson Act; directs the director of law enforcement in the division of fisheries, wildlife and environmental law enforcement to establish and implement a boating education program, boating education course, examination, certificate and examination fee; prohibits persons born on or after January 1, 1988 from operating a motorboat unless such person obtains a boating certificate; phases in said requirement for persons born before that date; establishes penalties for violations of these provisions; establishes certain exemptions to these provisions; requires persons engaged in the business of renting or leasing motorboats to provide a safe motorboat operation checklist to operators.

Status: House Committee on Ways and Means (HWM)

Complete 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House

History: 02/23/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture

02/23/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral

05/31/17 - Hearing Scheduled (6/6/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Room 437)

10/17/17 - H - Reported favorably as amended by Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture carrying HB2931

10/17/17 - H - Referred to House Committee on Ways & Means

HB471 - An Act establishing a commission to study dredging needs for recreational boating in Commonwealth waterways

MMTA assisted in the drafting of this bill and submitted supportive comments. The bill is likely dead for this legislative session, but can be re-filed next session.

Sponsor: Rep. Straus, William (D)

Cosponsors: Former Rep. Heroux, Paul (D); Rep. Berthiaume Jr., Donald (R); Rep. Cantwell, James (D); Rep. Chan, Tackey (D); Rep. Cutler, Josh (D); Rep. Ferguson, Kimberly (R); Rep. Gifford, Susan (R); Rep. Haddad, Patricia (D); Rep. Hill, Bradford (R); Rep. Hunt, Randy (R); Rep. Koczera, Robert (D); Rep. McGonagle, Jr., Joseph (D); Rep. Mirra, Leonard (R); Rep. Muratore, Mathew (R); Rep. Orrall, Keiko (R); Rep. Parisella, Jerald (D); Rep. Peake, Sarah (D); Rep. Puppolo, Jr., Angelo (D); Rep. Vieira, David (R); Sen. Humason, Jr., Donald (R); Sen. Lovely, Joan (D); Sen. Moore, Michael (D); Sen. Tarr, Bruce (R)

Summary: Establishes a 9 member commission to study needed dredging for recreational boating; specifies the qualifications of the members of the Commission; directs the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to provide the commission with staff and other resources; directs the Commission to submit its findings and recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor within one year.

Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)

Complete 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House

History: 02/23/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture

02/23/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral

11/16/17 - Hearing Scheduled (11/29/17 11:00 AM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture A-1)

02/28/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB396 - An Act establishing a revolving fund to supplement the funding of waterway projects and coastal protection initiatives

MMTA submitted support comments on this bill, but the bill is likely dead for this legislative session, but can be re-filed next session.

Sponsor: Rep. Ayers, Bruce (D)

Cosponsors: Rep. Murphy, James (D)
Summary: Establishes and regulates use of the coastal protection and harbor maintenance revolving fund; authorizes the Department of Environmental Protection to use the fund to provide financial assistance to local governmental units to finance costs of coastal protection and harbor maintenance projects, as defined.
Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)
Complete 01/18/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/23/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/23/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
11/16/17 - Hearing Scheduled (11/29/17 11:00 AM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture A-1)
02/20/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB401 - An Act relative to community preservation funds for coastal infrastructure

MMTA submitted support comments on this bill, but the bill is likely dead for this legislative session, but can be re-filed next session.

Sponsor: Rep. Cantwell, James (D)
Cosponsors: Rep. Calter, Thomas (D); Rep. Cutler, Josh (D); Rep. Whelan, Timothy (R); Sen. O'Connor, Patrick (R)
Summary: Amends; GL 44B:6 by directing that, in coastal communities that adopt the community preservation act, at least 10 per cent of the annual revenue in the community preservation be set aside to fund the preservation of public infrastructure through beach nourishment, dune restoration, and seawall maintenance and reconstruction.
Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)
Complete 01/10/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/23/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/23/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
11/16/17 - Hearing Scheduled (11/29/17 11:00 AM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture A-1)
02/28/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB404 - An Act reestablishing the harbors and inland waters maintenance fund

MMTA submitted support comments on this bill. The bill is likely dead for this legislative session, but can be re-filed next session.

Sponsor: Rep. Cantwell, James (D)
Cosponsors: Rep. Calter, Thomas (D); Rep. Cutler, Josh (D); Rep. Gifford, Susan (R); Rep. Keefe, Mary (D); Sen. O'Connor, Patrick (R)
Summary: Amends GL 91 by inserting a new §10E; establishes the Harbors and Inland Waters Maintenance Fund; establishes the revenue sources for the fund, as well as duties to be carried out under the fund.
Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)
Complete 01/10/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/23/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/23/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
09/12/17 - Hearing Scheduled (9/19/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture B-1)
02/20/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB405 - An Act relative to the financing of dredging projects

MMTA submitted support comments on this bill. The bill is likely dead for this legislative session, but can be re-filed next session.

Sponsor: Rep. Cantwell, James (D)
Cosponsors: Sen. O'Connor, Patrick (R)
Summary: Adds a new §11B to GL 91, the statute governing Waterways, to establish the Waterways Trust and to authorize the commissioner of the department of conservation and recreation to receive bequests, restitutions and gifts to the trust for the purpose of improvements to harbors and inland waterways; amends GL 91:11A to authorize the department of environmental protection to participate in funding municipal and local authorities up to 75% for dredging projects and up to 50% for all other work authorized under this section; replaces references to the Soil Conservation Service of USDA in several places in the chapter with United States Army Corps of Engineers and other federal agencies.
Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)
Complete History: 01/10/17 - H - Filed in the House
02/23/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/23/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
11/16/17 - Hearing Scheduled (11/29/17 11:00 AM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture A-1)
02/20/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB406 - An Act establishing a regional dredge grants program

MMTA submitted support comments on this bill. The bill is likely dead for this legislative session, but can be re-filed next session.

Sponsor: Rep. Cantwell, James (D)
Cosponsors: Sen. O'Connor, Patrick (R)
Summary: Adds new §11B to GL 91, the statute governing Waterways, establishing a program within the office of waterways to administer grants to regional entities for the purpose of purchasing dredges and associated capital equipment; defines such regional entities; authorizes up to two million dollars annually for the program; requires the department of environmental protection to file annual reports on the program to the legislature.
Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)
Complete History: 01/10/17 - H - Filed in the House
02/23/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/23/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
11/16/17 - Hearing Scheduled (11/29/17 11:00 AM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture A-1)
02/20/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB1484 - An Act repealing the sales tax on boats built or rebuilt in the Commonwealth

MMTA submitted comments in support of this bill. The bill is likely dead for this legislative session, but can be re-filed next session.

Sponsor: Rep. Cantwell, James (D)
Cosponsors: Rep. Cutler, Josh (D); Rep. Gifford, Susan (R); Rep. Muratore, Mathew (R); Rep. Whelan, Timothy (R); Sen. O'Connor, Patrick (R)
Summary: Exempts the sale of boats built or rebuilt and delivered in Massachusetts by Massachusetts craftsmen from the sales tax.
Status: Joint Committee on Revenue (JRV)
Complete History: 01/10/17 - H - Filed in the House
02/24/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Revenue
02/24/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
05/30/17 - Hearing Scheduled (6/20/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Revenue A-2)
02/15/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB1490 - An Act restoring the harbors and inland waters maintenance fund

MMTA submitted supportive comments on this bill. The bill is likely dead for this legislative session, but can be re-filed next session.

Sponsor: Rep. Chan, Tackey (D)
Cosponsors: Rep. Rogers, David (D); Sen. Tarr, Bruce (R)
Summary: Amends GLs 64A:13 and c. 91 to require that .05% of gas taxes revenue be credited to the Harbors and Inland Waters Maintenance Fund.
Status: Joint Committee on Revenue (JRV)
Complete 01/10/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/24/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Revenue
02/24/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
04/21/17 - Hearing Scheduled (5/16/17 10:00 AM - Joint Committee on Revenue A-1)
02/15/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB1511 - An Act establishing a permanent annual sales tax holiday

MMTA submitted supportive comments on this bill. The bill is likely dead for this legislative session.

Sponsor: Rep. Dwyer, James (D)
Cosponsors: Rep. Cantwell, James (D); Sen. Tarr, Bruce (R)
Summary: Directs and authorizes the Commissioner of Revenue to annually designate, by July 15 of each calendar year, a two-day weekend in August for tax exemptions for sales.
Status: Joint Committee on Revenue (JRV)
Complete 01/18/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/24/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Revenue
02/24/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
05/30/17 - Hearing Scheduled (6/20/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Revenue A-2)
02/15/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB1549 - An Act relative to a 2018 sales tax holiday

MMTA submitted supportive comments on this bill. The bill is likely dead for this legislative session.

Sponsor: Rep. Jones, Jr., Bradley (R)
Cosponsors: Rep. Barrows, F. (R); Rep. Berthiaume Jr., Donald (R); Rep. Boldyga, Nicholas (R); Rep. D'Emilia, Angelo (R); Rep. Ferguson, Kimberly (R); Rep. Frost, Paul (R); Rep. Gifford, Susan (R); Rep. Harrington, Sheila (R); Rep. Howitt, Steven (R); Rep. Kuros, Kevin (R); Rep. Muradian, David (R); Rep. Poirier, Elizabeth (R); Rep. Smola, Todd (R); Rep. Whelan, Timothy (R)
Summary: Establishes a sales tax holiday notwithstanding any laws to the contrary. In particular, the sales tax holiday is to take place on August 11 & 12 2018, and is to be limited to 'nonbusiness' sales at retail of tangible personal property. Also exempts telecommunications, tobacco products, gas, steam, electricity, motor vehicles, motorboats, meals or a single item the price of which is in excess of \$2,500.
Status: Joint Committee on Revenue (JRV)
Complete 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/24/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Revenue
02/24/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
05/30/17 - Hearing Scheduled (6/20/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Revenue A-2)
02/15/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB1634 - An Act relative to local control of boat excise revenue

MMTA testified in support of this bill at the public hearing and submitted a supportive comment letter.

Sponsor: Rep. Straus, William (D)

Cosponsors: No Cosponsors

Summary: Amends GL 60B:2, the statute governing excise tax of boats and other vessels, to authorize municipalities to increase the per cent of said excise tax that is earmarked for the municipal waterways improvement and maintenance fund by a vote of the legislative body; prohibits reductions in amounts credited to its municipal waterways improvement and maintenance fund below fifty per cent.

Status: Reported favorably by Joint Committee (REP/J)

Complete 01/12/17 - H - Filed in the House

History: 02/24/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Revenue

02/24/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral

03/27/17 - Hearing Scheduled (4/3/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Revenue B-2)

05/01/17 - H - Reported favorably by Joint Committee on Revenue

05/04/17 - H - New draft substituted - see HB3667 (View comparison to substituted version)

HB3667 - An Act relative to local control of boat excise revenue

This is a redraft of HB 1634, which MMTA supported at a public hearing on April 3rd and submitted a supportive comment letter. The redraft is purely stylistic, the substance of the bill has not changed.

Sponsor: Joint Committee on Revenue

Cosponsors: No Cosponsors

Summary: Amends GL 60B:2, the statute governing excise tax of boats and other vessels, to authorize municipalities to increase the per cent of said excise tax that is earmarked for the municipal waterways improvement and maintenance fund by a vote of the legislative body; prohibits reductions in amounts credited to its municipal waterways improvement and maintenance fund below fifty per cent.

Status: Ordered to a third reading in the House (ORD3R/H)

Complete 05/04/17 - H - New draft of HB1634 (View comparison to prior version)

History: 05/04/17 - H - Referred to House Committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling

05/25/17 - H - Placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session

05/25/17 - H - Ordered to a third reading

06/06/17 - House Session (6/7/17 11:00 AM House Chamber)

06/14/17 - House Session (6/14/17 11:00 AM House Chamber)

06/20/17 - House Session (6/21/17 11:45 AM House Chamber)

07/06/17 - House Session (7/7/17 1:30 PM House Chamber)

07/18/17 - House Session (7/19/17 11:00 AM House Chamber)

07/26/17 - House Session (7/26/17 11:00 AM House Chamber)

09/12/17 - House Session (9/13/17 1:00 PM House Chamber)

09/26/17 - House Session (9/27/17 11:00 AM House Chamber)

10/03/17 - House Session (10/4/17 11:00 AM House Chamber)

10/10/17 - House Session (10/11/17 11:00 AM House Chamber)

10/23/17 - House Session (10/25/17 11:00 AM House Chamber)

10/31/17 - House Session (11/1/17 11:00 AM House Chamber)

11/07/17 - House Session (11/8/17 10:00 AM House Chamber)

11/09/17 - House Session (11/13/17 11:00 AM House Chamber)

11/13/17 - House Session (11/14/17 12:00 PM House Chamber)

11/14/17 - House Session (11/15/17 12:00 PM House Chamber)

01/23/18 - House Session (1/24/18 11:00 AM House Chamber)

01/31/18 - House Session (1/31/18 11:00 AM House Chamber)

02/28/18 - House Session (2/28/18 11:00 AM House Chamber)

HB1896 - An Act to establish an office of maritime planning and policy development

MMTA submitted a supportive comment letter on this bill.

Sponsor: Rep. Straus, William (D)

Cosponsors: No Cosponsors

Summary: Adds new section 76 to GL 6C:52, the statute governing MassDOT's Mass Transit Division, to establish an office of maritime planning and policy development within the division; articulates the responsibilities of the new office; provides that said duties should not conflict with the administrative duties, powers and jurisdiction granted to MASSPORT, the Steamship Authorities or the MBTA.

Status: House Committee on Ways and Means (HWM)

Complete 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House

History: 02/24/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Transportation

02/24/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral

12/01/17 - Hearing Scheduled (12/6/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Transportation A-1)

12/26/17 - H - Reported favorably by Joint Committee on Transportation

12/26/17 - H - Referred to House Committee on Ways & Means

HB2147 - An Act providing for the establishment of a comprehensive adaptation management plan in response to climate change

MMTA testified in support of this bill's goals and offered suggested changes to reflect the business of boating.

Sponsor: Rep. Smizik, Frank (D)

Cosponsors: Rep. Ayers, Bruce (D); Rep. Balsler, Ruth (D); Rep. Barber, Christine (D); Rep. Cantwell, James (D); Rep. Connolly, Mike (D); Rep. Cullinane, Daniel (D); Rep. Decker, Marjorie (D); Rep. Dykema, Carolyn (D); Rep. Ehrlich, Lori (D); Rep. Fernandes, Dylan (D); Rep. Goldstein-Rose, Solomon (I); Rep. Gordon, Kenneth (D); Rep. Hecht, Jonathan (D); Rep. Higgins, Natalie (D); Rep. Honan, Kevin (D); Rep. Kaufman, Jay (D); Rep. Khan, Kay (D); Rep. Linsky, David (D); Rep. Livingstone, Jay (D); Rep. Madaro, Adrian (D); Rep. Muratore, Mathew (R); Rep. Peake, Sarah (D); Rep. Provost, Denise (D); Rep. Rogers, David (D); Rep. Rushing, Byron (D); Rep. Ultrino, Steven (D); Rep. Vega, Aaron (D); Rep. Vincent, RoseLee (D); Sen. L'Italien, Barbara (D); Sen. Moore, Michael (D); Sen. Pacheco, Marc (D)

Summary: Enacts a new Chapter 21P (Comprehensive Adaptation Management Planning in Response to Climate Change) in the General Laws. The new chapter would require the adoption a Comprehensive Adaptation Management Action Plan. Upon the adoption of the plan, all certificates, licenses, permits, authorizations, grants, financial obligations, projects, plans, actions, and approvals for any proposed projects, uses, or activities in and by the Commonwealth must be consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the adopted plan. Among other things, the Plan must demonstrate how the commonwealth will increase alternative local renewable power sources that reduce dependence on centralized power plants; improve resiliency by protecting and restoring natural green infrastructure; incentivize development in low-risk locations away from coastal and inland flood plains and discouraging new development in high-risk locations; and improve resiliency of structures through an update of the state Building Code. In addition, the plan is to encourage and provide guidance to regional planning agencies to proactively address the unavoidable consequences of climate change and provide a process for local and regional climate vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategy development; regional grants are to be designed to reduce community risks and hazards as a result of climate change; the Commonwealth may acquire from willing sellers land abutting or adjacent to areas subject to the ebb and flow of the tide or on barrier beaches or in velocity zones of flood plain areas.

Status: Attached to favorable report by Joint Committee

Complete 01/20/17 - H - Filed in the House

History: 03/08/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture

03/08/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
05/10/17 - Hearing Scheduled (5/16/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Environment,
Natural Resources & Agriculture B-1)
06/06/17 - H - Attached to favorable report by Joint Committee of SB472

**Opposition
Bills:**

HB3913 - An Act relative to the fairness of marine vessel reporting and fishermen exemptions

This is a redrafted and substituted version of the excise tax bill, which still contains the same problematic language on excise tax collection and registration of federally documented vessels.

Sponsor: Joint Committee on Revenue
Cosponsors: No Cosponsors
Summary: No Summary
Status: House Committee on Ways and Means (HWM)
Complete 09/21/17 - H - New draft of HB2592 (View comparison to prior version)
History: 09/21/17 - H - Referred to House Committee on Ways & Means

HB2592 - An Act relative to the fairness of marine vessel reporting and fishermen exemptions

MMTA testified in opposition of this bill at the public hearing and submitted comments in opposition. This bill was revised and substituted, see above.

Sponsor: Rep. Ferrante, Ann-Margaret (D)
Cosponsors: Former Rep. Heroux, Paul (D) ; Rep. Ayers, Bruce (D); Rep. Crighton, Brendan (D); Rep. McGonagle, Jr., Joseph (D); Rep. Tosado, Jose (D)
Summary: Amends GL 60B:3 to changes the exemption with respect to which kind of vessels are exempt from the excise on boats. Existing law provides that fishing boats of \$10,000 or less are exempt from the excise; this bill would raise that limit to \$50,000, but add a new proviso that 50% of the owner's income must come from commercial fishing. The bill also establishes that no owner of a vessel will be issued a registration decal or a renewal unless the owner has provided proof of payment of the excise. The bill additionally makes a number of technical amendments related to the administration of the excise.
Status: Reported favorably as amended by Joint Committee (REPA/J)
Complete 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 03/08/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Revenue
03/08/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
03/27/17 - Hearing Scheduled (4/10/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Revenue B2)
09/19/17 - H - Reported favorably as amended by Joint Committee on Revenue carrying SB1634
09/21/17 - H - New draft substituted - see HB3913 (View comparison to substituted version)

HB455 - An Act regarding designated port areas

MMTA submitted comments in opposition to the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture for its public hearing on November 29, 2017.

Sponsor: Rep. Murphy, James (D)

Cosponsors: No Cosponsors

Summary: Subject to municipal adoption of the act, subjects all development and permitting in Designated Port Areas, as designated in 301 CMR 25 to local review. References 301 CMR 15, which does not refer to Designated Port Areas. DPA's are defined in 301 CMR 25.

Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)

Complete History: 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House

02/23/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/23/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
11/16/17 - Hearing Scheduled (11/29/17 11:00 AM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture A-1)
02/20/18 - H - Accompanied study order

Other Relevant Bills:

HB391 - An Act providing for more efficient wetlands

Sponsor: Rep. Arciero, James (D)

Cosponsors: No Cosponsors

Summary: Amends GL 40:8c by directing that a municipality may adopt local wetlands ordinances or by-laws that are more stringent than those set forth in GL 131:40 if, prior to adoption, the department of environmental protection reviews any proposed ordinance or by-law and determines that it has a recognized scientific basis, is a recommended best management practice, and is warranted given the unique resources identified as being in need of enhanced protection prior to approval.

Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)

Complete History: 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House

02/23/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/23/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
09/12/17 - Hearing Scheduled (9/19/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture B-1)
02/20/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB394 - An Act relative to public access to Long Island in Boston Harbor

Sponsor: Rep. Ayers, Bruce (D)

Cosponsors: No Cosponsors

Summary: Directs that if any form of state funding is used to provide a means of access to Long Island in Boston Harbor, such access must be open to the public.

Status: House Committee on Ways and Means (HWM)

Complete History: 01/18/17 - H - Filed in the House

02/23/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/23/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
04/25/17 - Hearing Scheduled (5/2/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture B-1)
01/23/18 - H - Reported favorably by Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
01/24/18 - H - Referred to House Committee on Ways & Means

HB395 - An Act relative to the Division of Waterways to dredge Quincy Bay

Sponsor: Rep. Ayers, Bruce (D)

Cosponsors: No Cosponsors

Summary: Adds a new section to GL 91 (Waterways) that instructs the Director of the Division of Waterways to dredge the natural channel between the Squantum Yacht Club, the Wollaston Yacht Club and Quincy Bay.

Status: Reported favorably as amended by Joint Committee (REPA/J)

Complete 01/18/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/23/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/23/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
04/25/17 - Hearing Scheduled (5/2/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture B-1)
09/07/17 - H - Reported favorably as amended by Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
09/07/17 - H - New draft substituted - see HB3895 (View comparison to substituted version)

HB398 - An Act instructing the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game to study the feasibility of repurposing the former Moon Island Sewage Treatment Plant for the purposes of fish and shellfish farms

Sponsor: Rep. Ayers, Bruce (D)
Cosponsors: No Cosponsors
Summary: Directs the Department of Fish & Game to conduct a study on the feasibility of repurposing the old sewage facility on Moon Island as a fish and shellfish farm for environmental and educational purposes. The findings are to be reported to the Mayors of Boston and Quincy, the Boston and Quincy Conservation Commissions, and the legislature by December 15, 2019.
Status: House Committee on Ways and Means (HWM)
Complete 01/18/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/23/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/23/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
11/16/17 - Hearing Scheduled (11/29/17 11:00 AM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture A-1)
02/01/18 - H - Reported favorably by Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/01/18 - H - Referred to House Committee on Ways & Means

HB402 - An Act making technical corrections to the Dam and Seawall Repair and Removal Fund

Sponsor: Rep. Cantwell, James (D)
Cosponsors: No Cosponsors
Summary: Amends GL 29:2III (Dam and Seawall Removal Fund) to add regional local government units to the list of organizations to be given priority in the awarding of grants from said Fund.
Status: House Committee on Ways and Means (HWM)
Complete 01/10/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/23/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/23/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
09/12/17 - Hearing Scheduled (9/19/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture B-1)
12/01/17 - H - Reported favorably by Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
12/01/17 - H - Referred to House Committee on Ways & Means

HB403 - An Act to protect open space, historical resources, and community housing from coastal threats

Sponsor: Rep. Cantwell, James (D)
Cosponsors: Rep. Calter, Thomas (D); Rep. Cutler, Josh (D); Rep. Muratore, Mathew (R); Sen. O'Connor, Patrick (R)
Summary: Expands the definition of preservation in GL 44B:2 (The Community Preservation Act) to include the construction, alteration or rehabilitation of beaches, dunes, seawalls and other coastal infrastructure for the purpose of protecting open space, historical resources or community housing from flooding, sea-level rise and storm surge.
Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)

Complete 01/10/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/23/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/23/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
11/16/17 - Hearing Scheduled (11/29/17 11:00 AM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture A-1)
02/20/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB409 - An Act authorizing and directing the director of the Division of Waterways to dredge the harbor area surrounding Houghs Neck in the city of Quincy

Sponsor: Rep. Chan, Tackey (D)
Cosponsors: Rep. Ayers, Bruce (D)
Summary: Directs the director of the Division of Waterways to dredge the harbor area surrounding Houghs Neck in the City of Quincy at a cost of no more than \$800,000.
Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)
Complete 01/10/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/23/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/23/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
04/25/17 - Hearing Scheduled (5/2/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture B-1)
02/20/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB410 - An Act expanding pleasure boat access to Boston Harbor

Sponsor: Rep. Chan, Tackey (D)
Cosponsors: No Cosponsors
Summary: Authorizes and directs all public agencies owning or controlling property within the city of Boston to establish or expand mooring and docking facilities for pleasure boats to make use of the Harbor and Islands; provides for a RFP process and investment of private funds for this purpose, and for the controlling agency to charge reasonable fees to defray the cost of any mooring or docking facility made available to the general public.
Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)
Complete 01/10/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/23/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/23/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
05/31/17 - Hearing Scheduled (6/6/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Room 437)
02/20/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB411 - An Act relative to DCR yacht club fee reflecting water way access

Sponsor: Rep. Chan, Tackey (D)
Cosponsors: No Cosponsors
Summary: Amends the provisions of SL 2010:65 which authorized DCAM to enter into 30 year leases with certain yacht clubs, by requiring the survey that DCAM must ordinarily undertake to include navigable channels and berthing/mooring areas on the water sheet; it also requires DCAM to manage, repair and maintain the land under water for the term of the lease for recreational boating waterside access and the protection of navigable waterways and channels.
Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)
Complete 01/10/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/23/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/23/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
11/16/17 - Hearing Scheduled (11/29/17 11:00 AM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture A-1)
02/20/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB420 - An Act expanding the powers of the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife

Sponsor: Rep. Frost, Paul (R)
Cosponsors: No Cosponsors
Summary: Amends GL 131:4 by expanding the authority of the director of the division of fisheries and wildlife to exempt certain persons from licensing requirements in order to control or manage

wildlife.

Status: Attached to favorable report by Joint Committee
Complete 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/23/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/23/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
09/12/17 - Hearing Scheduled (9/18/17 11:00 AM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Division of Fisheries & Wildlife - 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough)
02/12/18 - H - Attached to favorable report by Joint Committee of SB433

HB428 - An Act relative to underground storage tanks

Sponsor: Rep. Gregoire, Danielle (D)
Cosponsors: Rep. DuBois, Michelle (D)
Summary: Amends GL 210:5 (Underground Storage Tanks) to provide that required corrective action undertaken relative to a release from such a tank may include financial reimbursement to the owners of a negatively impacted property that sustained assessable financial damage due to negligent release; further provides that these provisions applies to properties undergoing remediation through the Underground Storage Tank Petroleum Product Cleanup Fund at the time of this legislation's enactment.
Status: House Committee on Ways and Means (HWM)
Complete 01/18/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/23/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/23/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
10/11/17 - Hearing Scheduled (10/17/17 9:30 AM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture B-1)
02/01/18 - H - Reported favorably by Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/01/18 - H - Referred to House Committee on Ways & Means

HB430 - An Act to reduce solid waste, increase recycling and generate municipal cost savings

Sponsor: Rep. Hecht, Jonathan (D)
Cosponsors: Rep. Balsler, Ruth (D); Rep. Benson, Jennifer (D); Rep. Connolly, Mike (D); Rep. Day, Michael (D); Rep. Decker, Marjorie (D); Rep. Honan, Kevin (D); Rep. Keefe, Mary (D); Rep. Khan, Kay (D); Rep. Parisella, Jerald (D); Rep. Provost, Denise (D); Rep. Rogers, David (D); Rep. Smizik, Frank (D); Rep. Tosado, Jose (D); Rep. Walsh, Chris (D); Sen. Eldridge, James (D); Sen. Lewis, Jason (D)
Summary: Amends GL c.16 (Department of Highways) by adding provisions that generally are designed to reduce the amount of solid waste (a.k.a 'trash') in solid waste facilities (a.k.a. transfer stations or dumps). Specifically, the bill requires annual performance target goals for municipal solid waste reduction, based on total pounds of solid waste disposed per resident served per year; it requires all solid waste management facilities to remove and divert all waste ban materials to the greatest extent possible; it authorizes the Department of Environmental Protection and the communities hosting solid waste facilities to use action levels incorporated into certain regulations (310 CMR 19.017); it requires DEP and hosting communities to conduct frequent load inspections; and it requires DEP to collect a \$1.50/ton surcharge on all waste disposed of at a Solid Waste Disposal Facility to be used for the Zero Waste Fund and for the financing of recycling programs.

(Please note that it is generally a bad idea to reference or incorporate regulations into legislation.)

Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)
Complete 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/23/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/23/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
10/18/17 - Hearing Scheduled (10/24/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture A-1)
02/20/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB437 - An Act establishing a Department of Environmental Protection appeals board

Sponsor: Rep. Kafka, Louis (D)
Cosponsors: Former Sen. Timilty, James (D) ; Rep. Ashe, Brian (D); Rep. Barrows, F. (R); Rep. Dooley, Shawn (R); Rep. Rogers, John (D); Sen. Timilty, Walter (D)
Summary: Adds a new section to GL 21A creating the Department of Environmental Protection Appeals Board to be chaired by the EOEEA Secretary or his designee and sets forth the qualifications and terms of the Board's members; replaces the current statutory process for appealing a determination by the Board of Registration of Hazardous Waste Site Cleanup Professionals with a process for appealing to the Board created by this Act. (The new section is identified as §19G, which is a section that already exists.)
Status: Reported favorably by Joint Committee (REP/J)
Complete 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/23/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/23/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
10/11/17 - Hearing Scheduled (10/17/17 9:30 AM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture B-1)
02/06/18 - H - Reported favorably by Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture

HB442 - An Act conserving our natural resources

Sponsor: Rep. Kulik, Stephen (D)
Cosponsors: Rep. Gonzalez, Carlos (D); Rep. Provost, Denise (D)
Summary: Prohibits a person to use, set, place or maintain any trap for the purpose of capturing furbearing mammals, except for common mouse and rat traps; describes other traps that are prohibited from being used for the aforementioned purpose; establishes that this provision will not apply to the use of prohibited devices by federal and state departments and those divisions and agencies described herein.
Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)
Complete 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/23/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/23/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
09/12/17 - Hearing Scheduled (9/18/17 11:00 AM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Division of Fisheries & Wildlife - 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough)
02/20/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB445 - An Act amending MGL Chapter 21E and 310 CMR 4.03

Sponsor: Rep. Mark, Paul (D)
Cosponsors: Rep. Gonzalez, Carlos (D)
Summary: Provides that no city, town or development authority having acquired a site acting in conformance with MGL Ch21E:2 (Massachusetts Oil and Hazardous Material Release Prevention and Response Act) may be assessed any annual compliance assurance fee; requires the amendment of CMR 310. 4.03 to include any city, town, redevelopment authority, redevelopment agency, community development corporation, or economic development and industrial corporation as among those, agencies exempted from annual compliance assurances fees. (Please note that General Laws should not seek to amend the Code of Mass Regulations.)
Status: Reported favorably as amended by Joint Committee (REPA/J)
Complete 01/14/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/23/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/23/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
10/11/17 - Hearing Scheduled (10/17/17 9:30 AM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture B-1)
11/20/17 - H - Reported favorably as amended by Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
11/20/17 - H - New draft substituted - see HB4040 (View comparison to substituted version)

HB452 - An Act relative to an underground storage tank petroleum product cleanup fund

Sponsor: Rep. Muradian, David (R)
Cosponsors: Rep. Barrows, F. (R); Rep. D'Emilia, Angelo (R)
Summary: Inserts GL 29:2LLLL to establish the Underground Storage Tank Petroleum Product Cleanup Fund, into which fees, penalties and other amounts collected pursuant to GL 21J (which

regulates underground petroleum storage and dispensing of petroleum) to be used to prevent the need for environmental cleanup actions and to expedite environmental cleanup actions by providing partial reimbursements to: (1) owners or operators of underground storage tanks or underground storage tank systems, (2) owners or operators of vessels or sites from or at which there is or has been a release or threat of release of oil or hazardous material and (3) any person who otherwise caused or is legally responsible for a release or threat of release of oil or hazardous material from a vessel or site.

Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)
Complete 01/18/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/23/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/23/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
09/12/17 - Hearing Scheduled (9/19/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture B-1)
02/20/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB466 - An Act relative to the conservation of Atlantic striped bass

Sponsor: Rep. Stanley, Thomas (D)
Cosponsors: Rep. Hill, Bradford (R); Rep. Kane, Hannah (R); Rep. McMurtry, Paul (D); Rep. Rogers, John (D)
Summary: Amends GL 130:100A relative to striped bass regulations for marine fish and fisheries by prohibiting new commercial fishermen from fishing for striped bass while grandfathering in certain existing fishermen. It does this by first prohibiting the commercial harvesting and sale of wild striped bass except for those owning commercial licenses on December 31, 2012 who can historically demonstrate over the preceding 5 years that they have averaged an annual landing and sale of more than 1000 pounds of striped bass, and second, by requiring that all aquaculture raised striped bass bear the tag of the grower or distributor of the fish; violations are to be punished by a fine of not less than \$200 for each fish taken or possessed for the first violation, \$500 for second violations and \$1000 for subsequent violations; adds new provisions that do allow commercial harvesting and sale of wild striped bass for individuals. Recreational angling is still permitted' certain hardship provisions are also enacted for somewhat smaller commercial fishermen wishing to be grandfathered in.
Status: Reported favorably as amended by Joint Committee (REPA/J)
Complete 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/23/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/23/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
11/16/17 - Hearing Scheduled (11/29/17 11:00 AM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture A-1)
02/12/18 - H - Reported favorably as amended by Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture carrying HB465, HB467, and SB492

HB468 - An Act to invasive plants

Sponsor: Rep. Straus, William (D)
Cosponsors: No Cosponsors
Summary: Authorizes the department of agricultural resources to spend up to \$400,000 from the additional fees paid on pesticide licenses described in GL 132B, the Massachusetts Pesticide Control Act, for integrated pest management and control of invasive plants.
Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)
Complete 01/11/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/23/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/23/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
11/16/17 - Hearing Scheduled (11/29/17 11:00 AM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture A-1)
02/28/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB472 - An Act establishing an ocean acidification task force

Sponsor: Rep. Straus, William (D)

Cosponsors: No Cosponsors

Summary: Establishes an Ocean Acidification Task Force consisting of 19 members to study the direct and indirect effects of coastal and ocean acidification on species that are commercially harvested or grown in the commonwealth. The Task Force is to submit a report and drafts of recommended legislation to the legislature no later than March 20, 2016.

Status: Attached to favorable report by Joint Committee

Complete 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House

History: 02/23/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture

02/23/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral

11/16/17 - Hearing Scheduled (11/29/17 11:00 AM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture A-1)

01/23/18 - H - Attached to favorable report by Joint Committee of HB2122

HB1118 - An Act incentivizing solar energy systems on brownfields

Sponsor: Rep. Vega, Aaron (D)

Cosponsors: Former Rep. Heroux, Paul (D) ; Rep. Berthiaume Jr., Donald (R); Rep. Lewis, Jack (D); Rep. Mirra, Leonard (R); Rep. Orrall, Keiko (R); Rep. Smizik, Frank (D); Rep. Tosado, Jose (D); Rep. Walsh, Chris (D); Sen. Humason, Jr., Donald (R); Sen. Lewis, Jason (D)

Summary: Establishes a process for expedited permitting for the installation of solar energy generation, similar to that of GL 40B:21-23; specifies the eligibility for such a process, on brownfield sites in municipalities with over 15,000 residents and less than 5 MW of renewable power generation including rooftop systems; directs the Board of Appeals to notify applicable local boards and hold a hearing inviting such officials; specifies considerations for approval; directs the board to adopt rules for the approval of permits under this statute; establishes the process for issuance of a Comprehensive Solar Generation Permit; establishes a process for the appeal of such permits when they are unreasonably denied or issued to be uneconomic; directs the Department of Public Utilities to hold a hearing on such appeals; specifies the scope of such hearings; authorizes the department to vacate unreasonable or uneconomic permit decisions by the board; prohibits the department from issuing permits by its own authority; directs the board to carry out such findings by the department; establishes the findings of the department to be actions of the board if the board fails to do so.

Status: Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government (JMR)

Complete 01/18/17 - H - Filed in the House

History: 02/23/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government

02/23/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral

06/21/17 - Hearing Scheduled (6/27/17 11:00 AM - Joint Committee on Municipalities & Regional Government Room 222)

02/06/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB1272 - An Act relative to hoisting license renewal

Sponsor: Rep. Howitt, Steven (R)

Cosponsors: Rep. Whelan, Timothy (R)

Summary: Amends GL 146:53 relative to the necessity of license or temporary permit for operating hoisting machinery not run by steam, by prohibiting the Commissioner of Public Safety from promulgating any rules or regulations requiring more than two hours of classroom credit every four years for the renewal of a hoisting license.

Status: Reported favorably by Joint Committee (REP/J)

Complete 01/12/17 - H - Filed in the House

History: 02/24/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security

02/24/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral

07/06/17 - Hearing Scheduled (7/19/17 10:00 AM - Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security A-2)

10/12/17 - H - Reported favorably by Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security

10/12/17 - H - Referred to House Committee on Ways & Means

10/16/17 - H - Reported favorably by Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security

HB1302 - An Act relative to recreational vehicles

Sponsor: Rep. Puppolo, Jr., Angelo (D)

Cosponsors: Rep. Ashe, Brian (D)

Summary: Amends GL 90B:21A relative to recreational vehicles, by authorizing the RMV and the Supervisor of the Boat and Recreational Vehicle Safety Bureau to establish a mandatory educational safety program for the operation of recreational vehicles. Prescribes fines for noncompliance with any requirements to complete said safety program.

Status: Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security (JPSF)

Complete: 01/13/17 - H - Filed in the House

History: 02/24/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
02/24/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
10/05/17 - Hearing Scheduled (10/10/17 10:00 AM - Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security B-2)

HB1312 - An Act relative to kayak safety

Sponsor: Rep. Straus, William (D)

Cosponsors: No Cosponsors

Summary: Amends GL c.90B, the statute governing Motorboats, Other Vessels and Recreational Vehicles, to add canoes and kayaks to the statute's provisions; requires kayak instructors to receive first aid and CPR training approved by DPH; requires kayak instructors to receive American Canoe Association certification, American Red Cross small craft safety certification and basic water rescue training; requires kayak instructors to train students on the safety procedures appropriate to the level of paddling difficulty.

Status: Reported favorably by Joint Committee (REP/J)

Complete: 01/12/17 - H - Filed in the House

History: 02/24/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
02/24/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
05/10/17 - Hearing Scheduled (5/16/17 10:00 AM - Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security A-2)
02/23/18 - H - Reported favorably by Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security

HB1525 - An Act repealing the property tax exemption for Massport lessees

Sponsor: Rep. Gordon, Kenneth (D)

Cosponsors: No Cosponsors

Summary: Amends section 17 of chapter 465 of the Acts of 1956 to provide that when the Massachusetts Port Authority leases real property, the property taxes are to be paid by the lessee as if the lessee were the owner of said property. Further provides that Massport is to be exempt from taxes except for those levied upon real property and is entitled to enter into agreements with the Boston Redevelopment Authority to make payments in lieu of taxes for such.

Status: Joint Committee on Revenue (JRV)

Complete: 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House

History: 02/24/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Revenue
02/24/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
04/19/17 - Hearing Scheduled (5/1/17 10:00 AM - Joint Committee on Revenue B-2)
02/15/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB1575 - An Act relative to assessing administration

Sponsor: Rep. Livingstone, Jay (D)

Cosponsors: Rep. Hunt, Daniel (D); Rep. Ryan, Daniel (D)

Summary: Amends GL 59:38 relative to tax assessment administration to prevent individuals from enjoining a city or town based upon tax assessed under that statute. Section 2 adds a Section 75A to Chapter 59 which would allow a town to retroactively assess a tax with interest if the board of assessors determines within three years that the full amount of tax was not assessed. In the case of a fraudulent return the town has a period of six years to assess a deficiency. Section 3 amends GL 59:61A relative to abatement applications to specify which modes of delivery are acceptable. Section 4 amends GL 59:75 relative to omitted tax assessments to require assessors to maintain a log of additionally imposed taxes stemming from past omissions for a period of 5 years, subject to audit by the DOR rather than submit a yearly report. Section 5 amends GL 60B:2 relative to excise tax of boats to institute a system of excise tax similar to that of motor vehicles. Section 6 amends GL 90B:3 relative to boat registration to require a showing of receipt of excise tax paid in the prior year to receive a certificate of number. Section 7 amends GL 90B:4 to require a showing of receipt of excise tax to receive a replacement

certificate of number. Section 8 amends GL 60B:2 relative to excise tax of boats to provide that the minimum excise tax collected shall be no less than \$25.

Status: Joint Committee on Revenue (JRV)
Complete 01/13/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/24/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Revenue
02/24/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
04/19/17 - Hearing Scheduled (5/1/17 10:00 AM - Joint Committee on Revenue B-2)
02/15/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB1627 - An Act to amend the brownfields tax credit

Sponsor: Rep. Sanchez, Jeffrey (D)
Cosponsors: Rep. Haddad, Patricia (D); Rep. Higgins, Natalie (D)
Summary: Amends portions of GL 62:6 and GL 63:38Q dealing with the environmental response action credit. In particular, the bill corrects a reference to 310 CMR 40.0000; it clarifies that the credit applies not only to property that a taxpayer owns or leases, but also property that a taxpayer 'operates'; in addition, it clarifies that the environmental response action credit may include net response and removal costs incurred by taxpayers before the taxpayer first owned, operated, or leased the subject property.

Status: Reported favorably as amended by Joint Committee (REPA/J)
Complete 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/24/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Revenue
02/24/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
04/20/17 - Hearing Scheduled (5/9/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Revenue B-2)
08/03/17 - H - Reported favorably as amended by Joint Committee on Revenue carrying SB1610 and SB1611
08/03/17 - H - New draft substituted - see HB3851 (View comparison to substituted version)

HB1635 - An Act relative to conservation restrictions

Sponsor: Rep. Straus, William (D)
Cosponsors: No Cosponsors
Summary: Amends GL 61B:1 (Recreational land and uses in the classification and taxation of recreational land) to establish that land not less than three acres in area is automatically to be deemed to be recreational land if it is subject to a conservation restriction in perpetuity.

Status: Joint Committee on Revenue (JRV)
Complete 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/24/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Revenue
02/24/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
04/21/17 - Hearing Scheduled (5/16/17 10:00 AM - Joint Committee on Revenue A-1)
02/15/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB1708 - An Act to protect tropical forests by restricting state purchases of certain wood products

Sponsor: Rep. Rushing, Byron (D)
Cosponsors: Rep. DuBois, Michelle (D); Rep. Gonzalez, Carlos (D); Rep. Provost, Denise (D)
Summary: Adds new subsection (17a) to GL 7:22, the statute governing Administration and Finance, prohibiting the Commonwealth from purchasing wood grown in a tropical forest or products made substantially of wood grown in a tropical forest except where a public necessity exists and no other alternative is available, or unless the wood originates from second growth forests and carries independent certification; requires the consideration of recycled plastic lumber as an alternate material in all bids for outdoor and marine projects.

Status: House Committee on Ways and Means (HWM)
Complete 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/24/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight
02/24/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
04/06/17 - Hearing Scheduled (4/11/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on State Administration & Regulatory Oversight B-1)
12/04/17 - H - Reported favorably by Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory

HB1724 - An Act relative to energy efficiency

Sponsor: Rep. Benson, Jennifer (D)
Cosponsors: Rep. Chan, Tackey (D); Rep. Gordon, Kenneth (D); Rep. Hogan, Kate (D); Rep. Provost, Denise (D); Sen. Eldridge, James (D)
Summary: Amends GL 25:21 regarding efficiency plans submitted by electric distribution companies, municipal aggregators and natural gas distribution companies regarding the acquisition of available energy efficiency and demand reduction resources; requires the plans to include programs that result in customers switching to a different heating fuel, if it increases efficiency.
Status: Reported favorably as amended by Joint Committee (REPA/J)
Complete 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/24/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy
02/24/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
10/31/17 - Hearing Scheduled (11/6/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy B-1)
02/21/18 - H - Reported favorably as amended by Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy

HB1726 - An Act to promote green infrastructure, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and create jobs

Sponsor: Rep. Benson, Jennifer (D)
Cosponsors: Former Rep. Cariddi, Gailanne (D) ; Former Rep. Heroux, Paul (D) ; Former Rep. Kocot, Peter (D) ; Rep. Ashe, Brian (D); Rep. Atkins, Cory (D); Rep. Balsler, Ruth (D); Rep. Barber, Christine (D); Rep. Brodeur, Paul (D); Rep. Calter, Thomas (D); Rep. Connolly, Mike (D); Rep. Coppinger, Edward (D); Rep. Crighton, Brendan (D); Rep. Day, Michael (D); Rep. Decker, Marjorie (D); Rep. DiZoglio, Diana (D); Rep. Donahue, Daniel (D); Rep. Driscoll, William (D); Rep. DuBois, Michelle (D); Rep. Ehrlich, Lori (D); Rep. Farley-Bouvier, Tricia (D); Rep. Fernandes, Dylan (D); Rep. Garballey, Sean (D); Rep. Garlick, Denise (D); Rep. Garry, Colleen (D); Rep. Gentile, Carmine (D); Rep. Goldstein-Rose, Solomon (I); Rep. Gonzalez, Carlos (D); Rep. Gordon, Kenneth (D); Rep. Hay, Stephan (D); Rep. Hecht, Jonathan (D); Rep. Higgins, Natalie (D); Rep. Hogan, Kate (D); Rep. Keefe, Mary (D); Rep. Khan, Kay (D); Rep. Kulik, Stephen (D); Rep. Lewis, Jack (D); Rep. Linsky, David (D); Rep. Livingstone, Jay (D); Rep. Madaro, Adrian (D); Rep. Malia, Elizabeth (D); Rep. Mark, Paul (D); Rep. McMurtry, Paul (D); Rep. O'Day, James (D); Rep. Peisch, Alice (D); Rep. Provost, Denise (D); Rep. Puppolo, Jr., Angelo (D); Rep. Rogers, David (D); Rep. Ryan, Daniel (D); Rep. Scibak, John (D); Rep. Smizik, Frank (D); Rep. Tosado, Jose (D); Rep. Tucker, Paul (D); Rep. Vega, Aaron (D); Rep. Vincent, RoseLee (D); Rep. Walsh, Chris (D); Sen. Eldridge, James (D); Sen. Lewis, Jason (D)
Summary: No Summary
Status: Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy (JTU)
Complete 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/24/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy
02/24/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
06/14/17 - Hearing Scheduled (6/20/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy Gardner Auditorium)
02/21/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB1729 - An Act relative to hydrokinetic energy

Sponsor: Rep. Cantwell, James (D)
Cosponsors: Former Rep. Kocot, Peter (D) ; Rep. Cutler, Josh (D); Rep. Hecht, Jonathan (D)
Summary: Amends provisions of 138:164 and the definition of Class I net metering credit to add hydrokinetic energy to the list of alternative energies (currently solar, anaerobic digestion or wind as its energy source) which, if not used as the source of energy, will reduce the Class I credit to the average monthly clearing price at the ISO-NE. (A 'hydrokinetic net metering facility' is defined as one that uses waves, tides, and currents in oceans, estuaries, and tidal areas, free-flowing water in rivers, lakes, and streams or ocean thermal energy conversion to generate electricity.)
Status: Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy (JTU)

Complete 01/10/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/24/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy
02/24/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
09/13/17 - Hearing Scheduled (9/19/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy A-2)
02/21/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB1735 - An Act to increase courthouse energy efficiency

Sponsor: Rep. Cronin, Claire (D)
Cosponsors: No Cosponsors
Summary: Amends GL 25A:14 to authorize the Judiciary to contract for energy conservation projects costing \$100,000 or less, directly and without further solicitation, with electric and gas utilities, their subcontractors and other providers of certain DPU- or DER- authorized energy conservation projects, which projects may be paid for through additions to monthly utility bills.
Status: Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy (JTU)
Complete 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/24/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy
02/24/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
10/31/17 - Hearing Scheduled (11/6/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy B-1)
02/21/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB1744 - An Act improving recycling in the Commonwealth

Sponsor: Rep. Garry, Colleen (D)
Cosponsors: No Cosponsors
Summary: Amends various provisions of the General Laws, to repeal the 5 cent bottle deposit/refund law and instead institutes a 1 cent recycling fee on all containers of carbonated, noncarbonated-alcoholic and noncarbonated-nonalcoholic drinks, except milk and dairy derived products, infant formula or medical food, to be paid by distributors/wholesalers, either quarterly or annually; provides that fees collected and abandoned deposit amounts to be used for litter prevention and removal, municipal recycling collection programs and programs to increase recycling at public facilities and urban parks district reservations; assesses manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors and dealers a 1½ % interest fee on late recycling fee payments; and subjects manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors and dealers to a \$1,000 civil fine for each violation of this act.
Status: Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy (JTU)
Complete 01/18/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/24/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy
02/24/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
06/08/17 - Hearing Scheduled (6/13/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy A-2)
02/21/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB1747 - An Act to increase renewable energy

Sponsor: Rep. Haddad, Patricia (D)
Cosponsors: Rep. Fiola, Carole (D); Rep. Gonzalez, Carlos (D); Rep. Silvia, Alan (D); Sen. Pacheco, Marc (D)
Summary: Amends GL 25A:11F(Renewable energy portfolio standard for retail electricity suppliers) by adding a requirement to the portfolio standards that requires every retail supplier to provide a minimum of 40% KW sales to end-use customers in the Commonwealth from Class I renewable energy generating sources by 2030. Thereafter, the Department of Energy Resources will determine the appropriate annual increase in provision of Class I renewable energy generating sources from 2018 to 2030.
Status: Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy (JTU)
Complete 01/13/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/24/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy
02/24/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
09/13/17 - Hearing Scheduled (9/19/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy A-2)

HB1748 - An Act relative to energy efficiency

Sponsor: Rep. Haddad, Patricia (D)
Cosponsors: Rep. Golden, Jr., Thomas (D); Rep. Gonzalez, Carlos (D); Sen. Rodrigues, Michael (D)
Summary: Establishes that the Department of Energy Resources in consultation with electric distribution companies, must establish an energy efficiency pilot program, limited to 10 companies in each electric distribution service territory, which will allow customers whose average monthly use of electricity in a 12 month period equals or exceeds 750,000 kWh the opportunity to use mandatory charges above 750,000 kWh per month, for any qualified energy efficiency measures (approved by the Department of Public Utilities).
Status: Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy (JTU)
Complete 01/18/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/24/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy
02/24/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
10/31/17 - Hearing Scheduled (11/6/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy B-1)
02/07/18 - H - Extension order filed (until 3/9/2018) - see HB4204

HB1756 - An Act Relative to recycling grants for municipalities and state parks

Sponsor: Rep. Koczera, Robert (D)
Cosponsors: Rep. Muratore, Mathew (R); Rep. Silvia, Alan (D); Rep. Walsh, Chris (D)
Summary: Amends GL 94:323D and inserts 94:323G to establish the Clean Environment Fund, (which was abolished in 2003) into which 40% of the abandoned recycled container deposits collected by bottlers and distributors will be credited. Sixty per cent of the Fund is to be used for state and municipal: solid waste reduction, recycling, littering and composting programs and initiatives; outreach programs; sustainable material recovery programs and initiatives; and recycling equipment and infrastructure improvements. The remaining 40% is to be used for improvements to state parks, state forest recreation areas and state reservations under DCR control and, if applicable, those improvements must meet or exceed LEEDS building standards. Inserts GL 132A:2E to require that the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Affairs establish a program to promote the recycling of refuse and reduce littering at all state parks, forest recreation areas and reservations maintained by the department. (New draft of HB705, which required 100% of abandoned recycling deposits be credited to the Clean Environment Fund, for purposes very similar to those articulated in this new draft.)
Status: Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy (JTU)
Complete 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/24/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy
02/24/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
06/08/17 - Hearing Scheduled (6/13/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy A-2)
02/21/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB1757 - An Act relative to renewable energy certificates

Sponsor: Rep. Kulik, Stephen (D)
Cosponsors: Former Rep. Cariddi, Gailanne (D) ; Rep. Cahill, Daniel (D); Rep. Gonzalez, Carlos (D); Rep. Scibak, John (D); Sen. Eldridge, James (D)
Summary: Amends provisions of GL 25A:11F relative to renewable energy portfolio standard for retail electricity suppliers by striking out provisions that exempt municipal lighting plants from the obligations of the section so long as they are exempt from the requirements to allow competitive choice of generation supply, and replaces it with provisions that at the time of filing for qualification as a renewable energy generating source, each new facility (or facilities increasing their capacity) must meet site-specific standards that insure adequate and healthy river flows, water quality standards, fish passage and protection measures and mitigation and enhancement opportunities in the impacted watershed.
Status: Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy (JTU)
Complete 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/24/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy
02/24/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral

09/13/17 - Hearing Scheduled (9/19/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy A-2)
02/21/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB1800 - An Act providing for a study to be conducted on the cost feasibility of implementing a ferry service to Long Island in Boston Harbor

Sponsor: Rep. Ayers, Bruce (D)
Cosponsors: No Cosponsors
Summary: Establishes an 11 member Special Commission to study and investigate the feasibility and efficacy of establishing, operating and administering a ferry service to Long Island; articulates the qualifications of the members of the Commission; directs the Commission to identify and project the cost for establishing and operating such a service.
Status: Joint Committee on Rules (JRU)
Complete 01/18/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/24/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Transportation
02/24/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
01/12/18 - Hearing Scheduled (1/24/18 10:00 AM - Joint Committee on Transportation A-1)
02/12/18 - H - Reported favorably by Joint Committee on Transportation
02/12/18 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Rules

HB2004 - An Act to strategically plan for the commercial fishing industry

Sponsor: Rep. Ferrante, Ann-Margaret (D)
Cosponsors: Rep. Cabral, Antonio (D)
Summary: Adds new subsection to GL 6A:16G, the statute governing the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, to require the Secretary to prepare an annual strategic report, in conjunction with the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, regarding the Commonwealth's commercial fishing and shellfish industry; requires said report to include recommendations on maintaining and revitalizing the commercial fishing, shellfish and seafood industries.
Status: Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies (JEC)
Complete 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 03/08/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies
03/08/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
07/13/17 - Hearing Scheduled (7/18/17 10:30 AM - Joint Committee on Economic Development & Emerging Technologies A-2)
02/09/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB2108 - An Act protecting the natural resources of the Commonwealth

Sponsor: Rep. Balsemer, Ruth (D)
Cosponsors: Former Rep. Cariddi, Gailanne (D) ; Former Rep. Heroux, Paul (D) ; Former Rep. Kocot, Peter (D) ; Rep. Barber, Christine (D); Rep. Calter, Thomas (D); Rep. Campbell, Linda (D); Rep. Connolly, Mike (D); Rep. Decker, Marjorie (D); Rep. Donahue, Daniel (D); Rep. DuBois, Michelle (D); Rep. Ehrlich, Lori (D); Rep. Goldstein-Rose, Solomon (I); Rep. Gonzalez, Carlos (D); Rep. Higgins, Natalie (D); Rep. Kaufman, Jay (D); Rep. Keefe, Mary (D); Rep. Khan, Kay (D); Rep. Kulik, Stephen (D); Rep. Livingstone, Jay (D); Rep. Mahoney, John (D); Rep. Murphy, James (D); Rep. O'Day, James (D); Rep. Peake, Sarah (D); Rep. Peisch, Alice (D); Rep. Pignatelli, William (D); Rep. Provost, Denise (D); Rep. Rogers, David (D); Rep. Ryan, Daniel (D); Rep. Scaccia, Angelo (D); Rep. Scibak, John (D); Rep. Smizik, Frank (D); Rep. Stanley, Thomas (D); Rep. Walsh, Chris (D); Rep. Walsh, Thomas (D); Sen. Barrett, Michael (D); Sen. Eldridge, James (D); Sen. L'Italien, Barbara (D); Sen. Lewis, Jason (D); Sen. O'Connor Ives, Kathleen (D); Sen. O'Connor, Patrick (R)
Summary: Inserts a new Chapter 132C into the General Laws relative to protecting the natural resources of the Commonwealth. In particular, the bill provides that anyone proposing that lands acquired for conservation purposes that are also used for another purpose must mitigate the loss by paying or providing for replacement land; outlines other procedures and requirements for converting

such land. Also provides that a waiver for such requirements may be granted in some cases conditional upon certain enumerated criteria. Allows the Secretary of Environmental Affairs to inform interested parties that any such land is subject to these restrictions; requires that the sale, transfer, lease, or change of control of use of any Article 97 land held by a municipality be subject to a 2/3 town meeting or city council vote.

Status: Attached to favorable report by Joint Committee
Complete 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 03/08/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
03/08/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
04/25/17 - Hearing Scheduled (5/2/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture B-1)
10/19/17 - H - Attached to favorable report by Joint Committee of SB419

HB2109 - An Act to create the department of marine fisheries resources

Sponsor: Rep. Cabral, Antonio (D)
Cosponsors: No Cosponsors
Summary: No Summary
Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)
Complete 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 03/08/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
03/08/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
11/16/17 - Hearing Scheduled (11/29/17 11:00 AM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture A-1)
02/28/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB2116 - An Act providing for the establishment of sustainable water resource funds

Sponsor: Rep. Dykema, Carolyn (D)
Cosponsors: Rep. Arciero, James (D); Rep. Atkins, Cory (D); Rep. Barrows, F. (R); Rep. Benson, Jennifer (D); Rep. Calter, Thomas (D); Rep. Cantwell, James (D); Rep. Ferguson, Kimberly (R); Rep. Garballey, Sean (D); Rep. Gentile, Carmine (D); Rep. Gordon, Kenneth (D); Rep. Harrington, Sheila (R); Rep. Hecht, Jonathan (D); Rep. Higgins, Natalie (D); Rep. Hogan, Kate (D); Rep. Hunt, Daniel (D); Rep. Kafka, Louis (D); Rep. Kane, Hannah (R); Rep. Keefe, Mary (D); Rep. Markey, Christopher (D); Rep. McMurtry, Paul (D); Rep. Muratore, Mathew (R); Rep. Murphy, James (D); Rep. Murray, Brian (D); Rep. Provost, Denise (D); Rep. Rogers, David (D); Rep. Ryan, Daniel (D); Rep. Walsh, Chris (D); Sen. Barrett, Michael (D); Sen. Cyr, Julian (D); Sen. Eldridge, James (D); Sen. Lewis, Jason (D); Sen. Ross, Richard (R)
Summary: Amends GL 40 by inserting a new section 39M; authorizes a municipality, water district, wastewater district or stormwater utility which accepts this section to establish a sustainable water resources fund, and to collect a charge to be used for measures to remedy and offset the environmental impacts of new or increased water withdrawals, sewerage, wastewater discharges, stormwater discharges or impairment of recharge of groundwater through depletion of ground or surface waters; articulates the permitted uses of and regulations governing the fund.
Status: Ordered to a third reading in the House (ORD3R/H)
Complete 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 03/08/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
03/08/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
10/24/17 - Hearing Scheduled (10/30/17 12:00 PM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Lenox Town Hall - 6 Walker Street, Lenox)
02/01/18 - H - Reported favorably by Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/01/18 - H - Referred to House Committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling
02/06/18 - H - Placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session
02/06/18 - H - Ordered to a third reading
02/28/18 - House Session (2/28/18 11:00 AM House Chamber)

HB2117 - An Act relative to municipal assistance for clean water and economic development infrastructure

Sponsor: Rep. Dykema, Carolyn (D)

Cosponsors: Former Rep. Heroux, Paul (D) ; Rep. Arciero, James (D); Rep. Benson, Jennifer (D); Rep. Brodeur, Paul (D); Rep. Cabral, Antonio (D); Rep. Cantwell, James (D); Rep. Day, Michael (D); Rep. Garballey, Sean (D); Rep. Garry, Colleen (D); Rep. Golden, Jr., Thomas (D); Rep. Gordon, Kenneth (D); Rep. Hecht, Jonathan (D); Rep. Hogan, Kate (D); Rep. Kafka, Louis (D); Rep. Keefe, Mary (D); Rep. Markey, Christopher (D); Rep. McMurtry, Paul (D); Rep. Murphy, James (D); Rep. Murray, Brian (D); Rep. Peake, Sarah (D); Rep. Provost, Denise (D); Rep. Smizik, Frank (D); Rep. Walsh, Chris (D); Sen. Barrett, Michael (D); Sen. Eldridge, James (D); Sen. L'Italien, Barbara (D); Sen. Lewis, Jason (D); Sen. Moore, Michael (D); Sen. Ross, Richard (R)

Summary: Establishes a Water Pollution Abatement Trust and a Water Infrastructure Improvement Fund for purposes of improving drinking water, wastewater and storm water capital assets through loans and grants, for which bonds may be issued for local or regional projects that meet certain criteria; authorizes the Treasurer to issue bonds for this purpose.

Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)

Complete 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House

History: 03/08/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
03/08/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
10/24/17 - Hearing Scheduled (10/30/17 12:00 PM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Lenox Town Hall - 6 Walker Street, Lenox)
02/28/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB2121 - An Act reducing plastic bag pollution

Sponsor: Rep. Ehrlich, Lori (D)

Cosponsors: Former Rep. Heroux, Paul (D) ; Former Rep. Kocot, Peter (D) ; Rep. Ashe, Brian (D); Rep. Balsler, Ruth (D); Rep. Benson, Jennifer (D); Rep. Connolly, Mike (D); Rep. Cutler, Josh (D); Rep. Decker, Marjorie (D); Rep. DuBois, Michelle (D); Rep. Gregoire, Danielle (D); Rep. Hecht, Jonathan (D); Rep. Higgins, Natalie (D); Rep. Kafka, Louis (D); Rep. Keefe, Mary (D); Rep. Khan, Kay (D); Rep. Lewis, Jack (D); Rep. Livingstone, Jay (D); Rep. Madaro, Adrian (D); Rep. Peake, Sarah (D); Rep. Peisch, Alice (D); Rep. Provost, Denise (D); Rep. Rogers, David (D); Rep. Ryan, Daniel (D); Rep. Stanley, Thomas (D); Rep. Tosado, Jose (D); Rep. Walsh, Chris (D); Sen. Eldridge, James (D)

Summary: Submits a new GL 21P (Plastic bag reduction), which prohibits stores from providing single-use carryout bags to customers after August 1, 2018; defines single-use carryout bags as bags made of plastic, paper, or other material and that are not made of recycled materials and are not re-usable; permits the sale of single-use carryout bags until August 1, 2018 for at least ten cents per bag; allows stores to sell recycled paper bags or re-usable grocery bags for at least ten cents per bag after August 1, 2018; directs the department of environmental protection to regulate enforcement; retains existing municipal by-laws that further limit the use of single-use carryout bags.

Status: Reported favorably as amended by Joint Committee (REPA/J)

Complete 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House

History: 03/08/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
03/08/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
10/18/17 - Hearing Scheduled (10/24/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture A-1)
02/06/18 - H - Reported favorably as amended by Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture carrying SB424
02/15/18 - H - New draft substituted - see HB4234

HB2122 - Resolve establishing a special commission to study the effects of coastal and ocean acidification and its existing and potential effects on species that are commercially harvested and grown along the Massachusetts coast

Sponsor: Rep. Fernandes, Dylan (D)

Cosponsors: Rep. Ayers, Bruce (D); Rep. Cantwell, James (D); Rep. Connolly, Mike (D); Rep. Crighton, Brendan (D); Rep. Crocker, William (R); Rep. Cutler, Josh (D); Rep. Driscoll, William (D); Rep. Ehrlich, Lori (D); Rep. Gentile, Carmine (D); Rep. Higgins, Natalie (D); Rep. Hunt, Randy (R); Rep. Keefe, Mary (D); Rep. Lewis, Jack (D); Rep. Matias, Juana (D); Rep. Meschino, Joan (D); Rep. Muratore, Mathew (R); Rep. Peake, Sarah (D); Rep. Provost, Denise (D); Rep. Rogers, David (D); Rep. Smizik, Frank (D); Rep. Vieira, David (R); Rep. Whelan, Timothy (R); Sen. Cyr, Julian (D); Sen. Eldridge, James (D)

Summary: This resolve establishes a special commission to: (i) identify the actual and potential effects of coastal and ocean acidification on commercially valuable marine species; (ii) identify the scientific data and knowledge gaps that may hinder Massachusetts' ability to craft policy and other responses to coastal and ocean acidification: (iii) and prioritize the strategies for filling those gaps.

Status: Reported favorably by Joint Committee (REP/J)

Complete 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House

History: 03/08/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
03/08/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
11/16/17 - Hearing Scheduled (11/29/17 11:00 AM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture A-1)
01/22/18 - H - Reported favorably by Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Accompanied by SB410 and HB472
01/22/18 - H - New draft substituted - see HB4133 (View comparison to substituted version)

HB2123 - An Act relative to the scientific strategic planning of the Commonwealth's fishery

Sponsor: Rep. Ferrante, Ann-Margaret (D)

Cosponsors: No Cosponsors

Summary: Amends GL 21A:3 (Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs) to direct the Secretary to include a report relative to the research to be conducted to manage the Commonwealth's fisheries and shellfisheries within the Executive Office's annual report.

Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)

Complete 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House

History: 03/08/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
03/08/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
11/16/17 - Hearing Scheduled (11/29/17 11:00 AM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture A-1)
02/28/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB2124 - An Act to establish a commercial fishing permit bank in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Sponsor: Rep. Ferrante, Ann-Margaret (D)

Cosponsors: No Cosponsors

Summary: Amends GL 128:2, the statute governing powers and duties of the department of agriculture, to authorize the department to purchase federal fishery permits from any permit holder provided that such permit is transferable. Adds new section 107 to GL Chapter 130 to direct the department how to proceed with the permits that are purchased pursuant to GL 128:2.

Status: House Committee on Ways and Means (HWM)

Complete 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House

History: 03/08/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
03/08/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
11/16/17 - Hearing Scheduled (11/29/17 11:00 AM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture A-1)
02/01/18 - H - Reported favorably by Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/01/18 - H - Referred to House Committee on Ways & Means

HB2135 - An Act relative to shellfish reefs and water quality

Sponsor: Rep. Peake, Sarah (D)

Cosponsors: Rep. Ayers, Bruce (D); Rep. Cantwell, James (D); Rep. Gifford, Susan (R); Rep. Mirra, Leonard (R); Rep. Muratore, Mathew (R); Rep. Walsh, Chris (D)

Summary: Amends GL 91:18, the statute governing applications for licenses for construction relative to waterways, to provide that cultching (laying an oyster bed) for the express purpose of re-establishing or maintaining habitat for breeding shellfish, will not require a license so long as it is not placed on salt marsh or eel grass and is not an impediment to navigation.

Status: Ordered to a third reading in the House (ORD3R/H)

Complete 01/20/17 - H - Filed in the House

History: 03/08/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
03/08/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
10/24/17 - Hearing Scheduled (10/30/17 12:00 PM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Lenox Town Hall - 6 Walker Street, Lenox)
12/01/17 - H - Reported favorably by Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
12/01/17 - H - Referred to House Committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling
12/14/17 - H - Placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session
12/14/17 - H - Ordered to a third reading
01/23/18 - House Session (1/24/18 11:00 AM House Chamber)
01/31/18 - House Session (1/31/18 11:00 AM House Chamber)
02/28/18 - House Session (2/28/18 11:00 AM House Chamber)

HB2139 - An Act to improve water quality and pollution control programs

Sponsor: Rep. Rogers, David (D)
Cosponsors: Rep. Atkins, Cory (D); Rep. Balsler, Ruth (D); Rep. Benson, Jennifer (D); Rep. Connolly, Mike (D); Rep. Decker, Marjorie (D); Rep. Donahue, Daniel (D); Rep. Dykema, Carolyn (D); Rep. Garballey, Sean (D); Rep. Gordon, Kenneth (D); Rep. Hunt, Daniel (D); Rep. Keefe, Mary (D); Rep. Khan, Kay (D); Rep. Koczera, Robert (D); Rep. Madaro, Adrian (D); Rep. Provost, Denise (D); Rep. Ryan, Daniel (D); Rep. Walsh, Chris (D); Sen. DiDomenico, Sal (D); Sen. L'Italien, Barbara (D); Sen. Lewis, Jason (D); Sen. Moore, Michael (D); Sen. Timilty, Walter (D)
Summary: Directs the Water Resources Commission to prepare a Massachusetts water quality and pollution control program report for the purpose of achieving the goals of the Federal Clean Water Act; requires the report to include a baseline and gap analysis that focuses on fresh and coastal waters; requires the analysis and report to include the listed scientific resources and technical assistance; requires the report to provide recommendations for meeting federal water requirements and for improving drinking water and wastewater infrastructure; requires the report to include a baseline budget analysis and recommendations for funding sources; authorizes the commission to establish advisory committees and hold public hearings; requires the commission to begin work within 30 days.
Status: Reported favorably by Joint Committee (REP/J)
Complete 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 03/08/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
03/08/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
10/04/17 - Hearing Scheduled (10/10/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture A-1)
02/12/18 - H - Reported favorably by Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture

HB2142 - An Act providing for the maintenance of the Neponset River for the health and safety of the public

Sponsor: Rep. Scaccia, Angelo (D)
Cosponsors: No Cosponsors
Summary: Requires the Department of Conservation and Recreation to perform regular review and maintenance of the Neponset River; directs that two park rangers be assigned and equipped from May through October to remove any fallen trees or shrubs that inhibit the safe passage along the River by the general public. (No statutory citations included.)
Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)
Complete 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 03/08/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
03/08/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
04/25/17 - Hearing Scheduled (5/2/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture B-1)
02/28/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB2149 - An Act relating to the effective and efficient implementation of the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2008

Sponsor: Rep. Smizik, Frank (D)
Cosponsors: Former Rep. Heroux, Paul (D) ; Rep. Balsler, Ruth (D); Rep. Benson, Jennifer (D); Rep. Connolly, Mike (D); Rep. Decker, Marjorie (D); Rep. Ehrlich, Lori (D); Rep. Goldstein-Rose, Solomon (I); Rep. Hecht, Jonathan (D); Rep. Honan, Kevin (D); Rep. Kaufman, Jay (D); Rep. Livingstone, Jay (D); Rep. Provost, Denise (D); Rep. Rogers, David (D); Rep. Ultrino, Steven (D); Rep. Walsh, Chris (D); Sen. Cyr, Julian (D); Sen. Eldridge, James (D)
Summary: Amends GL 21N:4, the statute governing adopting statewide greenhouse gas emissions limits, to provide that limits are to be set for the years 2030 and 2040 in addition to the limit already set for 2020.
Status: Attached to favorable report by Joint Committee
Complete 01/20/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 03/08/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
03/08/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
05/10/17 - Hearing Scheduled (5/16/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture B-1)
06/06/17 - H - Attached to favorable report by Joint Committee of SB479

HB2150 - An Act preserving public trust rights in land affected by ocean erosion

Sponsor: Rep. Smizik, Frank (D)
Cosponsors: No Cosponsors
Summary: Amends GL 91:25, the statute governing the definition of great ponds, to require that any portion of a barrier beach moved by natural processes onto public land, including the former bottom of a great pond, shall remain in public ownership.
Status: Reported favorably by Joint Committee (REP/J)
Complete 01/20/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 03/08/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
03/08/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
11/16/17 - Hearing Scheduled (11/29/17 11:00 AM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture A-1)
02/12/18 - H - Reported favorably by Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture

HB2491 - An Act relative to penalties for false distress calls

Sponsor: Rep. Ferrante, Ann-Margaret (D)
Cosponsors: No Cosponsors
Summary: Directs the Secretary of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security, in consultation with the Attorney General, to promulgate regulations establishing a penalty schedule for false marine distress calls; requires the schedule to include reimbursements from individuals making such calls to responding state agencies.
Status: Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security (JPSF)
Complete 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 03/08/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
03/08/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
10/05/17 - Hearing Scheduled (10/10/17 10:00 AM - Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security B-2)

HB2635 - An Act relative to boat excise tax revenue for the Chatham waterfront

Sponsor: Rep. Peake, Sarah (D)
Cosponsors: Sen. Cyr, Julian (D)
Summary: Directs that 100% of the sums collected by the town of Chatham as boat excise tax will be credited to the town waterways improvement fund for the purposes of maintenance, piers and moorings, public access, and law enforcement and fire prevention.
Status: Reported favorably as amended by Joint Committee (REPA/J)
Complete 01/20/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 03/08/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Revenue
03/08/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
05/30/17 - Hearing Scheduled (7/18/17 11:00 AM - Joint Committee on Revenue B-2)

09/18/17 - H - Reported favorably as amended by Joint Committee on Revenue
09/18/17 - H - New draft substituted - see HB3909 (View comparison to substituted version)

HB2686 - An Act improving recycling in the Commonwealth

Sponsor: Rep. Cusack, Mark (D)
Cosponsors: Former Rep. Heroux, Paul (D) ; Rep. Cahill, Daniel (D); Rep. Lawn, Jr., John (D); Rep. McGonagle, Jr., Joseph (D); Rep. McMurtry, Paul (D); Rep. Nangle, David (D); Rep. Orrall, Keiko (R); Rep. Tucker, Paul (D)
Summary: Amends various provisions of the General Laws, to repeal the 5 cent bottle deposit/refund law and instead institutes a 1 cent recycling fee on all containers of carbonated, noncarbonated-alcoholic and noncarbonated-nonalcoholic drinks, except milk and dairy derived products, infant formula or medical food, to be paid by distributors/wholesalers, either quarterly or annually; provides that fees collected and abandoned deposit amounts to be used for litter prevention and removal, municipal recycling collection programs and programs to increase recycling at public facilities and urban parks district reservations; assesses manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors and dealers a 1½ % interest fee on late recycling fee payments; and subjects manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors and dealers to a \$1,000 civil fine for each violation of this act.
Status: Reported favorably by Joint Committee (REP/J)
Complete 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 03/08/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy
03/08/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
06/08/17 - Hearing Scheduled (6/13/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy A-2)
02/21/18 - H - Reported favorably by Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy

HB2700 - An Act to increase the renewable portfolio standard and ensure compliance with the Global Warming Solutions Act

Sponsor: Rep. Khan, Kay (D)
Cosponsors: Former Rep. Cariddi, Gailanne (D) ; Former Rep. Heroux, Paul (D) ; Former Rep. Kocot, Peter (D) ; Rep. Atkins, Cory (D); Rep. Balsler, Ruth (D); Rep. Barber, Christine (D); Rep. Benson, Jennifer (D); Rep. Cabral, Antonio (D); Rep. Connolly, Mike (D); Rep. Coppinger, Edward (D); Rep. Decker, Marjorie (D); Rep. Dykema, Carolyn (D); Rep. Ehrlich, Lori (D); Rep. Fernandes, Dylan (D); Rep. Garballey, Sean (D); Rep. Garlick, Denise (D); Rep. Garry, Colleen (D); Rep. Gentile, Carmine (D); Rep. Goldstein-Rose, Solomon (I); Rep. Gordon, Kenneth (D); Rep. Hecht, Jonathan (D); Rep. Higgins, Natalie (D); Rep. Kafka, Louis (D); Rep. Kaufman, Jay (D); Rep. Koczera, Robert (D); Rep. Kulik, Stephen (D); Rep. Lewis, Jack (D); Rep. Linsky, David (D); Rep. Livingstone, Jay (D); Rep. Madaro, Adrian (D); Rep. Malia, Elizabeth (D); Rep. McMurtry, Paul (D); Rep. Meschino, Joan (D); Rep. Mom, Rady (D); Rep. Murray, Brian (D); Rep. Peisch, Alice (D); Rep. Pignatelli, William (D); Rep. Provost, Denise (D); Rep. Puppolo, Jr., Angelo (D); Rep. Rogers, David (D); Rep. Sanchez, Jeffrey (D); Rep. Scibak, John (D); Rep. Smizik, Frank (D); Rep. Stanley, Thomas (D); Rep. Tosado, Jose (D); Rep. Vega, Aaron (D); Rep. Walsh, Chris (D); Sen. Eldridge, James (D); Sen. Jehlen, Patricia (D); Sen. Lewis, Jason (D); Sen. O'Connor Ives, Kathleen (D); Sen. Tarr, Bruce (R)
Summary: Amends GL 25A:11F, establishing and regulating the operation of the renewable energy portfolio for retail electricity suppliers; requires retail electricity suppliers to provide requires an additional 2 percent of electricity sales from Class 1 renewable energy resources every year after December 31, 2017; requires municipal electric departments to achieve full compliance with standards established by the renewable energy portfolio by December 31, 2030, to determine a phase in schedule by December 31, 2021 and to provide at least one percent of kilowatt hours from renewable sources by the 2022 calendar year; repeals provisions exempting municipal lighting plants from renewable energy portfolio requirements
Status: Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy (JTU)
Complete 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 03/08/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy
03/08/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
09/13/17 - Hearing Scheduled (9/19/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy A-2)

HB2710 - An Act relative to comprehensive siting reform for land based wind projects

Sponsor: Rep. Smizik, Frank (D)
Cosponsors: Former Rep. Heroux, Paul (D) ; Rep. Decker, Marjorie (D); Rep. Goldstein-Rose, Solomon (I); Rep. Scibak, John (D)
Summary: Encourages the development of wind powered electric generating plants, ensure such facilities are based in appropriate locations, and streamline the permitting process for such facilities. Amends GL 25A:10 relative to green communities to include language incorporating regional governmental bodies into the green community program. Inserts a new Chapter 25D into the General Laws defining terms relative to wind energy permitting, establishes a process for distributing local wind permits, allows a local wind energy permitting board consisting of 3 or 5 members to be created by municipalities not identified as a significant wind resource area. Further delineates both the local and state permit application and decision process. An energy facilities siting board is created to help ensure that facilities are appropriately located and to mitigate the societal impacts of the facilities. Requires the siting board to impanel an advisory group consisting of 17 members. Provides further guidelines for the preparation of the wind energy permitting process.
Status: Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy (JTU)
Complete History: 01/20/17 - H - Filed in the House
03/08/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy
03/08/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
09/13/17 - Hearing Scheduled (9/19/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy A-2)
02/21/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB2777 - An Act to enable the Commonwealth's administration of the Massachusetts pollutant discharge elimination system

Sponsor: Governor
Cosponsors: No Cosponsors
Summary: This bill, filed by the Governor, is necessary to enable Massachusetts to receive federal delegation of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ('NPDES'), which is a water quality program mandated by the federal government that includes permitting, compliance and enforcement activities relating to the discharge of pollutants. Under the Clean Water Act of 1972, the United States Environmental Protection Administration administers a number of programs to ensure water quality across the United States, including through the NPDES system. Individual states have the option of applying to the EPA for authorization to administer the programs themselves, subject to oversight by the EPA, or to have the federal government administer the program. (According to the Governor, 46 other states have already opted to administer the program themselves.) Under the NPDES legislation, the EPA currently issues stormwater permits to over 250 cities and towns across the Commonwealth, and hundreds of additional permits to industrial users and municipal wastewater treatment plants. This bill would move much of that permitting process locally to the Department of Environmental Protection, which already administers other federal environmental programs in the areas of drinking water, hazardous waste, and clean air. The bill makes a series of technical changes to the Massachusetts Clean Waters Act to bring our statute into conformity with federal requirements, and also gives DEP explicit authorization to apply for NPDES delegation.
Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)
Complete History: 03/09/17 - H - Filed in the House
03/09/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
03/13/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
10/04/17 - Hearing Scheduled (10/10/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture A-1)
02/07/18 - H - Extension order filed (until 3/10/2018)

HB2907 - An Act relative to the development and promulgation of regulations governing underground storage tanks

Sponsor: Rep. Collins, Nicholas (D)
Cosponsors: No Cosponsors
Summary: Amends GL 210, the statute governing Operation and Removal of Underground Storage Tanks, by adding a section creating the Underground Storage Tank Standards Board, responsible for developing and approving any regulations promulgated under this statute; designates the Commissioner of Environmental Protection as the Chairman of the Board; specifies the other members of the Board and their terms; provides for certain exceptions to Chapter 268A, the statute governing Conduct of Public Officials and Employees, for Board members.
Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)
Complete 01/20/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 03/20/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
03/20/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
10/11/17 - Hearing Scheduled (10/17/17 9:30 AM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture B-1)
02/28/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB2909 - An Act relative to abandoned vessels on DCR property

Sponsor: Rep. Collins, Nicholas (D)
Cosponsors: Former Sen. Forry, Linda (D)
Summary: Amends GL 91:43A to require DCR to move any vessel that has become grounded within the harbor or on the Commonwealth's shores or any abandoned vessel or unauthorized structure or objects left in the Commonwealth's tide waters, whether or not the vessel, structure or object poses a threat to safe and convenient navigation; and authorizes DCR to become a claimant of such vessel, structure or object at any time after moving it and may apply for title thereto.
Status: House Committee on Ways and Means (HWM)
Complete 01/20/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 03/20/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
03/20/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
05/31/17 - Hearing Scheduled (6/6/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Room 437)
09/07/17 - H - Reported favorably by Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
09/07/17 - H - Referred to House Committee on Ways & Means

HB2927 - An Act relative to inshore resource depletion

Sponsor: Former Rep. Kocot, Peter (D)
Cosponsors: No Cosponsors
Summary: Adds new §95A to GL 130, the statute governing Marine Fish and Fisheries, to require the director of the division of marine fisheries to promulgate regulations prohibiting the use of all midwater trawl and pair trawling for herring; authorizes the director to institute a system of fines for violations of this provision; further requires the director to establish herring fishery regulations that are compatible with regional efforts to rebuild groundfish resources; specifies several requirements said regulations should include.
Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)
Complete 01/20/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 03/20/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
03/20/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
11/16/17 - Hearing Scheduled (11/29/17 11:00 AM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture A-1)
02/28/18 - H - Accompanied study order

HB2931 - An Act relative to boating safety courses

Sponsor: Rep. Koczera, Robert (D)
Cosponsors: Rep. Ashe, Brian (D); Rep. Day, Michael (D); Rep. Garry, Colleen (D); Rep. Provost, Denise (D); Rep. Silvia, Alan (D); Sen. Eldridge, James (D)
Summary: No Summary
Status: Attached to favorable report by Joint Committee
Complete 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House

History: 03/20/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
03/20/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
05/31/17 - Hearing Scheduled (6/6/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Room 437)
10/17/17 - H - Attached to favorable report by Joint Committee of HB399

HB2935 - An Act promoting awareness of safe recreation in public waterways

Sponsor: Rep. Provost, Denise (D)
Cosponsors: Rep. Barber, Christine (D); Rep. Connolly, Mike (D); Rep. DuBois, Michelle (D); Rep. Keefe, Mary (D); Rep. Koczera, Robert (D); Rep. McGonagle, Jr., Joseph (D); Rep. Rogers, David (D); Rep. Ryan, Daniel (D); Rep. Tosado, Jose (D); Rep. Walsh, Chris (D); Sen. Jehlen, Patricia (D); Sen. Moore, Michael (D)
Summary: Amends various provisions relative to the issuance of permits and variance for CSO outfalls emptying into public waterways; defines CSO discharge as the discharge of treated, untreated, or incompletely treated sewage, industrial waste, or other waste into, directly or indirectly, a public waterway from a combined sewer system that has exceeded its maximum capacity; requires the installation of metering equipment, and requires the reporting of discharges within one hour after discovery; requires the maintenance of signs warning of the discharges where the public can access the waterways; regulates applications for issuance of waivers from such requirements; directs the department of environmental protection to maintain a website notifying the public of such outfalls and reports of discharges; regulates the content of the website; requires the department to issue an annual watershed CSO discharge report by May 15 of each year.
Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)
Complete 01/20/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 03/20/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
03/20/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
11/16/17 - Hearing Scheduled (11/29/17 11:00 AM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture A-1)
02/07/18 - H - Extension order filed (until 3/10/2018)

HB2943 - An Act relative to sustainable water conservation practices

Sponsor: Rep. Vieira, David (R)
Cosponsors: No Cosponsors
Summary: Establishes within the Department of Environmental Protection an Irrigation Contractor Board of Registration; regulates composition of said board; regulates registration of irrigation contractors, applications for licenses, continuing education requirements, exemptions, business permits, qualifications and permit fees, suspensions or revocations or reissuing of licenses, and unlawful conduct and penalties.
Status: Attached to favorable report by Joint Committee
Complete 01/20/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 03/20/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
03/20/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
10/24/17 - Hearing Scheduled (10/30/17 12:00 PM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Lenox Town Hall - 6 Walker Street, Lenox)
02/12/18 - H - Attached to favorable report by Joint Committee of SB413

HB2945 - An Act relative to landfills and areas of critical environmental concern

Sponsor: Rep. Vincent, RoseLee (D)
Cosponsors: Rep. Cantwell, James (D); Rep. DuBois, Michelle (D); Rep. Provost, Denise (D); Rep. Rogers, David (D)
Summary: Prohibits the establishment or expansion of any form of landfill in or near an 'area of critical environmental concern,' as defined by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.
Status: Reported favorably by Joint Committee (REP/J)
Complete 01/20/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 03/20/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
03/20/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
10/18/17 - Hearing Scheduled (10/24/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural

HB3349 - An Act to promote water conservation

Sponsor: Rep. Schmid, Paul (D)

Cosponsors: Rep. DeCoste, David (R); Rep. Fernandes, Dylan (D); Rep. Fiola, Carole (D); Rep. Kafka, Louis (D); Rep. Silvia, Alan (D); Sen. Gobi, Anne (D); Sen. Tarr, Bruce (R)

Summary: Directs the Department of Revenue to create a twenty-five per cent personal income tax credit for the purchase and installation of an amount not exceeding \$250 of plants and landscaping items intended to reduce water usage; lists several types of such plantings and items.

Status: Joint Committee on Revenue (JRV)

Complete: 01/20/17 - H - Filed in the House

History: 03/20/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Revenue

03/20/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral

04/21/17 - Hearing Scheduled (5/16/17 10:00 AM - Joint Committee on Revenue A-1)

02/15/18 - H - Accompanied study order

SENATE BILLS

Support Bills:

SB2279 - An Act providing for capital facility repairs and improvements for the Commonwealth

MMTA supported an amendment (Amendment 171) to this general bond bill, which would allocate \$1.5 billion to fund the replacement and renovation of career technical education program facilities and equipment throughout the Commonwealth. The amendment didn't pass, but the Senate support shows optimism for the future of such program.

Sponsor: Senate Ways and Means

Cosponsors: No Cosponsors

Summary: This Capital Facilities Budget submitted by the Senate Committee on Ways and Means appropriates \$3,546,000,000 in 10 line items. This includes \$680 million for state-owned and former county facilities; \$675 million for capital needs at court facilities; \$500 million for public safety and security facilities; \$475 million state universities and community college campus facilities and grounds; \$475 million for University of Massachusetts campus facilities and grounds; \$401 million for facilities and grounds operated by the various departments within EOHHS; \$150 million for the accelerated energy and resiliency program; \$85 million for a grant program to provide funding for municipal capital facility purposes, among others.

In the outside sections, the bill authorizes \$3,546,000,000 in bonds, all to be entitled Capital Improvement Act of 2017 for various terms of years; increases the threshold under which the DCAMM Commissioner may designate to a state agency the supervision over projects involving structural or mechanical work on buildings from \$2 million to \$5 million (and for the UMass system to \$10 million); and increases the threshold for the design fee under the contract from \$10,000 to \$30,000 and the cost of the project from \$100,000 to \$300,000 below which the project is exempt from the jurisdiction of the Designer Selection Board.

(New draft of SB2244. The new draft reintroduces some of the earmarks taken out of the previous draft, and in the outside sections appears to make only technical and grammatical changes.)

Status: Filed in the Senate (FILE/S)

Complete: 02/01/18 - S - Recommended new text of HB4045

History:

02/08/18 - S - Amendment(s) adopted as amended (Amendment #171 - Sen. Lesser)

02/08/18 - S - Printed-as-amended version - see SB2300 (View comparison to prior version)

SB2300 - An Act providing for capital facility repairs and improvements for the Commonwealth

Revised general bond bill, which a provision that requires a study on access to high quality vocational technical education.

Sponsor: Senate Ways and Means

Cosponsors: No Cosponsors

Summary: This Capital Facilities Budget engrossed in the Senate appropriates \$3,654,386,575 in 10 line items. This includes \$680 million for state-owned and former county facilities; \$675 million for capital needs at court facilities; \$500 million for public safety and security facilities; \$475 million state universities and community college campus facilities and grounds; \$475 million for University of Massachusetts campus facilities and grounds; \$401 million for facilities and grounds operated by the various departments within EOHHS; \$150 million for the accelerated energy and resiliency program; and \$193 million for a grant program to provide funding for municipal capital facility purposes, among others.

In the outside sections, the bill authorizes \$3,654,386,575 in bonds, all to be entitled Capital Improvement Act of 2017 for various terms of years; increases the threshold under which the DCAMM Commissioner may designate to a state agency the supervision over projects involving structural or mechanical work on buildings from \$2 million to \$5 million (and for the UMass system to \$10 million); and increases the threshold for the design fee under the contract from \$10,000 to \$30,000 and the cost of the project from \$100,000 to \$300,000 below which the project is exempt from the jurisdiction of the Designer Selection Board.

(Printed as amended text of SB2279. The amended text reintroduces dozens of earmarks into the budget, increases the item for the municipal grant program, and adds provisions that (1) allow funds borrowed by the Commonwealth to be expended to reimburse municipal debt incurred to create the capital asset; (2) establishes a special commission on public-private partnerships; (3) requires a study on access to high-quality vocational education; and (4) requires MDFA to issues an RFP for the mixed-use redevelopment of the state pier facility in the city of New Bedford.)

Status: Filed in the Senate (FILE/S)

Complete History: 02/08/18 - S - Printed-as-amended version of SB2279 (View comparison to prior version)

SB198 - An Act relative to a permanent annual sales tax holiday

MMTA submitted supportive comments on this bill.

Sponsor: Sen. Tarr, Bruce (R)

Cosponsors: Sen. Fattman, Ryan (R); Sen. Ross, Richard (R)

Summary: Adds new Section 6A to GL 64H (Tax on Retail Sales of Certain Tangible Personal Property) to require the Commissioner of Revenue to annually designate a two day weekend in August during which no excise shall be imposed upon non-business retail sales of tangible personal property; exempts telecommunications, gas, steam electricity, motor vehicles, motorboats, meals or any single item whose price is in excess of \$2,500.

Status: Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies (JEC)

Complete History: 01/19/17 - S - Filed in the Senate

02/22/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies

02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral

07/13/17 - Hearing Scheduled (7/18/17 10:30 AM - Joint Committee on Economic Development & Emerging Technologies A-2)
02/09/18 - S - Accompanied study order

SB403 - An Act establishing a commission to study dredging needs for recreational boating in Commonwealth waterways

MMTA assisted in the drafting of this bill and submitted supportive comments on it. The bill is dead for this legislative session, but can be re-filed next session.

Sponsor: Sen. Boncore, Joseph (D)
Cosponsors: Rep. Berthiaume Jr., Donald (R); Rep. Gifford, Susan (R); Rep. Muratore, Mathew (R); Sen. Humason, Jr., Donald (R); Sen. Lovely, Joan (D); Sen. Moore, Michael (D)
Summary: Establishes a 9-member commission to study needed dredging for recreational boating; specifies the qualifications of the members of the Commission; directs the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to provide the Commission with staff and other resources; directs the Commission to submit its findings and recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor within one year.
Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)
Complete History: 01/18/17 - S - Filed in the Senate
02/23/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/23/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
11/16/17 - Hearing Scheduled (11/29/17 11:00 AM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture A-1)
02/20/18 - S - Accompanied study order

SB487 - An Act providing for alternative DPA compliance

MMTA submitted supportive comments on this bill. The bill is dead for this legislative session, but can be re-filed next session.

Sponsor: Sen. Tarr, Bruce (R)
Cosponsors: No Cosponsors
Summary: Adds new section 5A to GL Chapter 21A to direct the secretary of the executive office of energy and environmental affairs and the special waterfront development oversight commission to comment on and approve proposals for development in Designated Port Authorities that do not meet strict compliance. Establishes said special waterfront development oversight commission, consisting of 7 members, to develop criteria for applicants to seek alternative compliance with regulations governing DPA.
Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)
Complete History: 01/12/17 - S - Filed in the Senate
02/23/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/23/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
11/16/17 - Hearing Scheduled (11/29/17 11:00 AM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture A-1)
02/28/18 - S - Accompanied study order

SB1594 - An Act repealing the sales tax on boats built or rebuilt in the Commonwealth

MMTA submitted a supportive comment letter on this bill.

Sponsor: Sen. O'Connor, Patrick (R)
Cosponsors: Rep. Berthiaume Jr., Donald (R); Sen. Humason, Jr., Donald (R)
Summary: Amends GL 64H:6 (Exemptions from the Sales Tax) to exempt boats built or rebuilt and delivered in Massachusetts by Massachusetts craftsmen entirely from the sales tax.
Status: Joint Committee on Revenue (JRV)

Complete 01/18/17 - S - Filed in the Senate
History: 02/22/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Revenue
02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
05/30/17 - Hearing Scheduled (6/20/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Revenue A-2)
02/15/18 - S - Accompanied study order

SB1672 - An Act relative to the sales tax

MMTA submitted a supportive comment letter on this bill.

Sponsor: Former Sen. Timilty, James (D)

Cosponsors: No Cosponsors

Summary: Amends provisions of GL 64H (Sales Tax) both creating a sales tax holiday and lowering the tax back down to 5%. Specifically, the bill establishes a sales tax holiday to be held within the 2nd week of August, and the exemption is to include tangible personal property not including telecommunications, tobacco products, gas, steam, electricity, motor vehicles, motorboats, meals, or any single item whose price is in excess of \$2,500. Next, the sales tax and the consumption (or use) tax are both lowered from 6¼% to 5%; in addition, the formula for the consumption tax is changed so that each 10¢ provides an additional 1¢ of tax.

Status: Joint Committee on Revenue (JRV)

Complete 01/19/17 - S - Filed in the Senate

History: 02/22/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Revenue

02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral

05/30/17 - Hearing Scheduled (7/18/17 11:00 AM - Joint Committee on Revenue B-2)

02/15/18 - S - Accompanied study order

Opposition Bills:

SB463 - An Act relative to out of state mooring

MMTA submitted comments in opposition to this bill.

Sponsor: Sen. Moore, Michael (D)

Cosponsors: No Cosponsors

Summary: Amends GL 90B:2, the statute governing numbering of motorboats, to add that such vessels may be numbered according to a different system as long as the vessel is used predominantly outside the commonwealth or the owner has a property interest outside the commonwealth, in addition to the requirement that the vessel has been in the commonwealth for less than 60 days. Amends GL 90B:14, the statute governing penalties for violating motorboat statutes, to provide that violating the newly amended portion of section 2 will result in an additional fine equal to the amount of excise tax that would have been due on said vessel.

Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)

Complete 01/19/17 - S - Filed in the Senate

History: 02/23/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and

Agriculture

02/23/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral

05/31/17 - Hearing Scheduled (6/6/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural

Resources & Agriculture Room 437)

02/28/18 - S - Accompanied study order

SB1634 - An Act relative to the fairness of marine vessel reporting and fishermen exemptions

***MMTA testified in opposition of this bill at the public hearing last April and submitted comments of opposition. We also submitted a redraft of the suggested changes to Senator Tarr's office, but the redraft was not reviewed by the Joint Committee on Revenue. Now this bill is being reviewed together with the House version of the bill**

(HB 3913) by the House Committee on Ways & Means.*

Sponsor: Sen. Tarr, Bruce (R)

Cosponsors: Former Rep. Heroux, Paul (D); Rep. Howitt, Steven (R)

Summary: Amends GL 60B:3 to changes the exemption with respect to which kind of vessels are exempt from the excise on boats. Existing law provides that fishing boats of \$10,000 or less are exempt from the excise; this bill would raise that limit to \$50,000, but add a new proviso that 50% of the owner's income must come from commercial fishing. The bill also establishes that no owner of a vessel will be issued a registration decal or a renewal unless the owner has provided proof of payment of the excise. The bill additionally makes a number of technical amendments related to the administration of the excise.

Status: Attached to favorable report by Joint Committee

Complete 01/12/17 - S - Filed in the Senate

History: 02/22/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Revenue

02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral

03/27/17 - Hearing Scheduled (4/10/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Revenue B2)

09/21/17 - S - Attached to favorable report by Joint Committee of HB2592

Other Relevant Bills:

SB472 - An Act providing for the establishment of a comprehensive adaptation management plan in response to climate change

MMTA testified in support of this bill's goals and offered suggested changes to reflect the business of boating.

Sponsor: Sen. Pacheco, Marc (D)

Cosponsors: Former Rep. Kocot, Peter (D) ; Rep. Calter, Thomas (D); Rep. Cantwell, James (D); Rep. Decker, Marjorie (D); Rep. Dykema, Carolyn (D); Rep. Ehrlich, Lori (D); Rep. Haddad, Patricia (D); Rep. Kaufman, Jay (D); Rep. Khan, Kay (D); Rep. Koczera, Robert (D); Rep. Ryan, Daniel (D); Rep. Smizik, Frank (D); Rep. Walsh, Chris (D); Sen. Brady, Michael (D); Sen. DiDomenico, Sal (D); Sen. Eldridge, James (D); Sen. Jehlen, Patricia (D); Sen. L'Italien, Barbara (D); Sen. Lewis, Jason (D); Sen. Moore, Michael (D)

Summary: Enacts a new Chapter 21P (Comprehensive Adaptation Management Planning in Response to Climate Change) in the General Laws. The new chapter would require the adoption a Comprehensive Adaptation Management Action Plan. Upon the adoption of the plan, all certificates, licenses, permits, authorizations, grants, financial obligations, projects, plans, actions, and approvals for any proposed projects, uses, or activities in and by the Commonwealth must be consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the adopted plan. Among other things, the Plan must demonstrate how the commonwealth will increase alternative local renewable power sources that reduce dependence on centralized power plants; improve resiliency by protecting and restoring natural green infrastructure; incentivize development in low-risk locations away from coastal and inland flood plains and discouraging new development in high-risk locations; and improve resiliency of structures through an update of the state Building Code. In addition, the plan is to encourage and provide guidance to regional planning agencies to proactively address the unavoidable consequences of climate change and provide a process for local and regional climate vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategy development; regional grants are to be designed to reduce community risks and hazards as a result of climate change; the Commonwealth may acquire from willing sellers land abutting or adjacent to areas subject to the ebb and flow of the tide or on barrier beaches or in velocity zones of flood plain areas.

Status: Senate Committee on Ways and Means (SWM)

Complete 01/19/17 - S - Filed in the Senate

History: 02/23/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture

02/23/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral

05/10/17 - Hearing Scheduled (5/16/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture B-1)

06/06/17 - S - Reported favorably as amended by Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture carrying HB2147
06/12/17 - S - Referred to Committee on Senate Global Warming and Climate Change
07/24/17 - S - Reported favorably by committee Senate Global Warming and Climate Change
07/24/17 - S - Referred to Senate Committee on Ways & Means
10/30/17 - S - Reported favorably as amended by Senate Committee on Ways & Means
10/30/17 - S - New draft recommended - see SB2196 (View comparison to recommended draft)
10/30/17 - S - Placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session (11/2/2017) with the amendment pending
11/02/17 - Senate Session (11/2/17 11:00 AM Gardner Auditorium)
11/02/17 - S - Amendment(s) adopted (Senate Ways and Means)
11/02/17 - S - New draft substituted - see SB2196 (View comparison to substituted version)

SB2196 - An Act providing for the establishment of a comprehensive adaptation management plan in response to climate change

MMTA worked with Senator Tarr to propose an amendment to this bill that would allow for grandfathering of currently licensed structures and also to except certain over the water structures from the definition of “permanent structure”.

Sponsor: Senate Ways and Means

Cosponsors: No Cosponsors

Summary: Enacts a new Chapter 21P (Comprehensive Adaptation Management Planning in Response to Climate Change) in the General Laws. The new chapter would require the adoption a Comprehensive Adaptation Management Action Plan. Upon the adoption of the plan, all certificates, licenses, permits, authorizations, grants, financial obligations, projects, plans, actions, and approvals for any proposed projects, uses, or activities in and by the Commonwealth must be consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the adopted plan.

Among other things, the Plan must demonstrate how the commonwealth will increase alternative local renewable power sources that reduce dependence on centralized power plants; improve resiliency by protecting and restoring natural green infrastructure; incentivize development in low-risk locations away from coastal and inland flood plains and discouraging new development in high-risk locations; and improve resiliency of structures through an update of the state Building Code. In addition, the plan is to encourage and provide guidance to regional planning agencies to proactively address the unavoidable consequences of climate change and provide a process for local and regional climate vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategy development; regional grants are to be designed to reduce community risks and hazards as a result of climate change; the Commonwealth may acquire from willing sellers land abutting or adjacent to areas subject to the ebb and flow of the tide or on barrier beaches or in velocity zones of flood plain areas.

(New draft of SB472. The new draft makes largely grammatical and technical changes to the previous text.)

Status: House Committee on Ways and Means (HWM)

Complete 10/30/17 - S - Recommended new draft of SB472 (View comparison to prior version)

History: 11/02/17 - S - New draft of SB472 (View comparison to prior version)

11/02/17 - S - Ordered to a third reading (All previous amendments offered to SB2196 will be considered at the third reading, and will be taken up the following week. Amendments may be redrafted or withdrawn before then)

11/06/17 - Senate Session (11/8/17 11:00 AM Gardner Auditorium)

11/08/17 - S - Passed to be engrossed (38/0) (All amendments were withdrawn)

11/09/17 - H - Received in the House

11/09/17 - H - Referred to House Committee on Ways & Means

SB201 - An Act to provide for loans for waterfront development

Sponsor: Sen. Tarr, Bruce (R)
Cosponsors: No Cosponsors
Summary: Authorizes the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency to spend an amount not to exceed ten million dollars for the purpose of making interest-free or low interest loans to rehabilitate existing infrastructure in waterfront areas; authorizes the State Treasurer to issue and sell bonds of the Commonwealth to fund this program.
Status: Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies (JEC)
Complete: 01/19/17 - S - Filed in the Senate
History: 02/22/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies
02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
05/30/17 - Hearing Scheduled (6/6/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Economic Development & Emerging Technologies Room 428)
02/09/18 - S - Accompanied study order

SB417 - An Act re-establishing the Clean Environment Fund

Sponsor: Sen. Donoghue, Eileen (D)
Cosponsors: Rep. Hecht, Jonathan (D)
Summary: Adds Section 323F to GL 94 (Inspection and Sale of Food, Drugs and Various Articles) to re-establish the Clean Environment Fund for programs supporting the proper management of solid waste, water resource protection, parkland, urban forestry, air quality and climate protection; prohibits amounts from the Fund from being used for costs associated with incineration or any process which disposes of solid waste by combustion or conversion to combustion fuels.

(Please note that the previous Section 323F was repealed in 2003)
Status: Reported favorably by Joint Committee (REP/J)
Complete: 01/19/17 - S - Filed in the Senate
History: 02/23/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/23/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
09/12/17 - Hearing Scheduled (9/19/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture B-1)
02/12/18 - S - Reported favorably by Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture

SB423 - An Act improving municipal water infrastructure

Sponsor: Sen. Eldridge, James (D)
Cosponsors: Sen. Lewis, Jason (D)
Summary: Adds new Section 19 to GL 29C (Massachusetts Clean Water Trust) entitled, "Municipal Water Infrastructure Trust Fund"; authorizes the Board of the Trust to expend money from the Fund for municipal or regional water infrastructure projects; establishes revenues to the Fund, including an assessment on municipal water usage; establishes a formula for distributing money from the Fund.
Status: Reported favorably by Joint Committee (REP/J)
Complete: 01/19/17 - S - Filed in the Senate
History: 02/23/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/23/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
10/24/17 - Hearing Scheduled (10/30/17 12:00 PM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Lenox Town Hall - 6 Walker Street, Lenox)
02/12/18 - S - Reported favorably by Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture

SB428 - An Act to enhance the management of problem wildlife

Sponsor: Sen. Gobi, Anne (D)
Cosponsors: Rep. Cantwell, James (D); Rep. Hecht, Jonathan (D)

Summary: Amends provisions of GL 131:80A relative to leghold traps and certain other restricted devices by adding provisions that require any person issued a permit to report to the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, the name of the property owner, address of the property threatened by wildlife, the name of authorized agent, method used to alleviate the problem, and the number and species of animals taken pursuant to the permit.

Status: Reported favorably by Joint Committee (REP/J)

Complete 01/16/17 - S - Filed in the Senate

History: 02/23/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/23/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
09/12/17 - Hearing Scheduled (9/18/17 11:00 AM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Division of Fisheries & Wildlife - 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough)
02/12/18 - S - Reported favorably by Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture

SB433 - An Act expanding the powers of the director of Fisheries and Wildlife

Sponsor: Sen. Gobi, Anne (D)

Cosponsors: Rep. DeCoste, David (R); Rep. Dooley, Shawn (R); Rep. Gifford, Susan (R); Rep. Orrall, Keiko (R); Rep. Scibak, John (D); Sen. O'Connor, Patrick (R); Sen. Pacheco, Marc (D); Sen. Rodrigues, Michael (D)

Summary: Amends GL 131:5 (Open Seasons: Rules and Regulations) to give the director of fisheries and wildlife the power to authorize an open season for the hunting of deer by bow and arrow on any date, including a Sunday or legal holiday; further requires that, if said open season period occurs in whole or in part within the last 3 months of the calendar year, it must be for a period of at least 7 consecutive days.

Status: Reported favorably as amended by Joint Committee (REPA/J)

Complete 01/19/17 - S - Filed in the Senate

History: 02/23/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/23/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
09/12/17 - Hearing Scheduled (9/18/17 11:00 AM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Division of Fisheries & Wildlife - 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough)
02/12/18 - S - Reported favorably as amended by Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture carrying HB420, HB469, and SB445

SB436 - An Act relative to public space recycling

Sponsor: Sen. Gobi, Anne (D)

Cosponsors: Former Sen. Donnelly, Kenneth (D) ; Rep. Hecht, Jonathan (D); Rep. Kaufman, Jay (D); Rep. Keefe, Mary (D); Rep. Provost, Denise (D); Sen. L'Italien, Barbara (D)

Summary: Requires all state agencies and courts to provide recycling for glass containers, metal containers, paper and plastic bottles in any public building or public open space, including parks, conservation areas and recreational areas; requires recycling receptacles to be placed adjacent to at least half of the waste receptacles; requires all privately owned high traffic areas, defined as facilities visited by at least 5,000 people annually, to recycle glass containers, metal containers, paper and plastic bottles, and to provide receptacles for public recycling by visitors; requires all municipalities to establish plans for recycling in public buildings and open spaces, and to file implementation plans with the department of environmental protection; imposes \$500 fines for non-compliance by public and municipal agencies, and \$2,000 for non-compliance by privately owned facilities; deposits fines in the sustainable materials management expendable trust, to be used for enforcement of recycling requirements.

Status: Reported favorably by Joint Committee (REP/J)

Complete 01/18/17 - S - Filed in the Senate

History: 02/23/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/23/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
10/18/17 - Hearing Scheduled (10/24/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture A-1)
02/20/18 - S - Reported favorably by Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture carrying HB2910

SB448 - An Act promoting awareness of safe recreation in public waterways

Sponsor: Sen. Jehlen, Patricia (D)

Cosponsors: Rep. Cantwell, James (D); Rep. Connolly, Mike (D); Rep. Gordon, Kenneth (D); Rep. Higgins, Natalie (D); Rep. Keefe, Mary (D); Rep. Lewis, Jack (D); Rep. Livingstone, Jay (D); Rep. Provost, Denise (D); Rep. Ryan, Daniel (D); Sen. DiDomenico, Sal (D); Sen. Eldridge, James (D)

Summary: No Summary

Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)

Complete 01/20/17 - S - Filed in the Senate

History: 02/23/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture

02/23/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral

11/16/17 - Hearing Scheduled (11/29/17 11:00 AM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture A-1)

02/07/18 - S - Extension order filed (until 3/10/2018)

SB452 - An Act for environmental, and water testing requirements, and funding thereof

Sponsor: Sen. Lewis, Jason (D)

Cosponsors: No Cosponsors

Summary: Adds a new unnamed and unnumbered 'chapter' to the General Laws (Environmental, and Water Testing Requirements, and Funding Thereof) requiring that environmental testing be 'enforceable' by 'appropriate funding, from public budgets, appropriate private compensations, and when needed, by appropriate court order'; creates a tax credit for voluntary funding of environmental tests.

Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)

Complete 01/19/17 - S - Filed in the Senate

History: 02/23/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture

02/23/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral

10/24/17 - Hearing Scheduled (10/30/17 12:00 PM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Lenox Town Hall - 6 Walker Street, Lenox)

02/20/18 - S - Accompanied study order

SB479 - An Act relative to 2030 and 2040 emissions benchmarks

Sponsor: Sen. Pacheco, Marc (D)

Cosponsors: Former Rep. Cariddi, Gailanne (D) ; Former Rep. Heroux, Paul (D) ; Former Rep. Kocot, Peter (D) ; Rep. Calter, Thomas (D); Rep. Decker, Marjorie (D); Rep. DuBois, Michelle (D); Rep. Ehrlich, Lori (D); Rep. Gentile, Carmine (D); Rep. Goldstein-Rose, Solomon (I); Rep. Gonzalez, Carlos (D); Rep. Higgins, Natalie (D); Rep. Provost, Denise (D); Rep. Ryan, Daniel (D); Sen. Brady, Michael (D); Sen. DiDomenico, Sal (D); Sen. Eldridge, James (D); Sen. Lewis, Jason (D)

Summary: Amends GL 21N:4, the statute governing adopting statewide greenhouse gas emissions limits, to provide that limits are to be set for the years 2030 and 2040 in addition to the limit already set for 2020.

Status: Senate Committee on Ways and Means (SWM)

Complete 01/19/17 - S - Filed in the Senate

History: 02/23/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture

02/23/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral

05/10/17 - Hearing Scheduled (5/16/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture B-1)

06/06/17 - S - Reported favorably by Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture carrying HB2149

06/12/17 - S - Referred to Committee on Senate Global Warming and Climate Change

02/14/18 - S - Reported favorably as amended by Senate Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change carrying SB477, SB478, SB1974 and HB3994

02/14/18 - S - New draft recommended - see SB2302

02/14/18 - S - Referred to Senate Committee on Ways & Means

SB481 - An Act relative to municipal water resources

Sponsor: Sen. Ross, Richard (R)

Cosponsors: Sen. Tarr, Bruce (R)

Summary: Directs the Department of Environmental Protection to assess its own authority to address the impact of municipal water withdrawal on nearby water sources, and report its findings to the Legislature by December 31, 2017.

Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)
Complete 01/20/17 - S - Filed in the Senate
History: 02/23/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/23/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
10/24/17 - Hearing Scheduled (10/30/17 12:00 PM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Lenox Town Hall - 6 Walker Street, Lenox)
02/28/18 - S - Accompanied study order

SB484 - An Act to restore the public trust for tidelands

Sponsor: Sen. Tarr, Bruce (R)
Cosponsors: No Cosponsors
Summary: Adds new section 64 to GL Chapter 91 to prohibit DCR from delegating or allowing any other agency to review and grant applications for tidelands licenses. Articulates that DCR is the only agency with the authority to do so without express legislative approval.
Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)
Complete 01/12/17 - S - Filed in the Senate
History: 02/23/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/23/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
09/12/17 - Hearing Scheduled (9/19/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture B-1)
02/28/18 - S - Accompanied study order

SB485 - An Act relative to the removal and disposal of waste oil

Sponsor: Sen. Tarr, Bruce (R)
Cosponsors: Sen. Ross, Richard (R)
Summary: Amends GL 21:52A by requiring any entity that wishes to accept waste oil or petroleum products for disposal from any automobile service station or marina serving powered watercraft or retail outlet selling automobile lubricating oil in the Commonwealth must submit a plan for the removal and proper disposal of such materials with the Department of Environmental Protection; regulates penalties for violations at \$1,000 per offense.
Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)
Complete 01/12/17 - S - Filed in the Senate
History: 02/23/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
02/23/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
10/18/17 - Hearing Scheduled (10/24/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture A-1)
02/28/18 - S - Accompanied study order

SB1330 - An Act relative to public safety in hoisting regulations

Sponsor: Sen. L'Italien, Barbara (D)
Cosponsors: Former Sen. McGee, Thomas (D) ; Rep. DuBois, Michelle (D); Rep. Moran, Frank (D); Sen. Brady, Michael (D)
Summary: Amends GL 146:53 (Hoisting Licenses) to clarify that the existing exemption from the requirements of the statute does not apply to a public utility company or other company during the course of an employee strike or lockout except during the period of a declared emergency by the governor.
Status: Senate Committee on Ways and Means (SWM)
Complete 01/19/17 - S - Filed in the Senate
History: 02/24/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
02/24/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
07/06/17 - Hearing Scheduled (7/19/17 10:00 AM - Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security A-2)
10/16/17 - S - Reported favorably by Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
10/19/17 - S - Referred to Senate Committee on Ways & Means

SB1440 - An Act relative to harbormasters

Sponsor: Sen. O'Connor Ives, Kathleen (D)

Cosponsors: No Cosponsors

Summary: Amends GL32:3, the statute governing Membership in Public Retirement Systems, to allow a municipality to place its harbormaster in Group 4, if the harbormaster is certified by the harbormaster training council.

Status: Joint Committee on Public Service (JPSR)

Complete 01/19/17 - S - Filed in the Senate

History: 02/22/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Public Service

02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral

10/24/17 - Hearing Scheduled (10/31/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Public Service A-2)

02/15/18 - S - Accompanied study order

SB1626 - An Act relative to charitable organizations and property taxes

Sponsor: Sen. Ross, Richard (R)

Cosponsors: Rep. Berthiaume Jr., Donald (R); Sen. Fattman, Ryan (R); Sen. Humason, Jr., Donald (R)

Summary: Amends GL 118E§38 to specify that the transfer of assets to a special needs trust for the benefit of an individual with disabilities is not a disposal at less than fair market value, and thus not grounds for a period of ineligibility from MassHealth.

Status: Joint Committee on Revenue (JRV)

Complete 01/20/17 - S - Filed in the Senate

History: 02/22/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Revenue

02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral

04/21/17 - Hearing Scheduled (5/1/17 10:00 AM - Joint Committee on Revenue B-2)

02/15/18 - S - Accompanied study order

SB1733 - An Act designating a certain state facility in the city of New Bedford as the New Bedford marine commerce terminal

Sponsor: Sen. Montigny, Mark (D)

Cosponsors: No Cosponsors

Summary: Designates the facility established by the Massachusetts Clean Energy Technology Center on certain parcels of land in the city of New Bedford as the New Bedford Marine Commerce Terminal; describes the parcels. No general or session laws cited.

Status: Senate Committee on Rules (SRU)

Complete 01/19/17 - S - Filed in the Senate

History: 02/22/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight

02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral

09/28/17 - Hearing Scheduled (10/2/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on State Administration & Regulatory Oversight B-1)

01/23/18 - S - Reported favorably by Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight

01/25/18 - S - Referred to Senate Committee on Rules

SB1821 - An Act combating climate change

Sponsor: Sen. Barrett, Michael (D)

Cosponsors: Former Rep. Cariddi, Gailanne (D) ; Former Rep. Heroux, Paul (D) ; Former Rep. Kocot, Peter (D) ; Former Sen. Donnelly, Kenneth (D) ; Rep. Ashe, Brian (D); Rep. Atkins, Cory (D); Rep. Balsler, Ruth (D); Rep. Barber, Christine (D); Rep. Calter, Thomas (D); Rep. Campbell, Linda (D); Rep. Connolly, Mike (D); Rep. Crighton, Brendan (D); Rep. Decker, Marjorie (D); Rep. DiZoglio, Diana (D); Rep. Donahue, Daniel (D); Rep. DuBois, Michelle (D); Rep. Dykema, Carolyn (D); Rep. Farley-Bouvier, Tricia (D); Rep. Fernandes, Dylan (D); Rep. Garballey, Sean (D); Rep. Gentile, Carmine (D); Rep. Goldstein-Rose, Solomon (I); Rep. Gordon, Kenneth (D); Rep. Hecht, Jonathan (D); Rep. Higgins, Natalie (D); Rep. Honan, Kevin (D); Rep. Kafka, Louis (D); Rep. Keefe, Mary (D); Rep. Khan, Kay (D); Rep. Lawn, Jr., John (D); Rep. Lewis, Jack (D); Rep. Linsky, David (D); Rep. Livingstone, Jay (D); Rep. Malia, Elizabeth (D); Rep. Matias, Juana (D); Rep. Meschino, Joan (D); Rep. O'Day, James (D); Rep. Peisch, Alice (D); Rep. Provost, Denise (D); Rep. Puppolo, Jr., Angelo (D); Rep. Rogers, David (D); Rep. Rushing, Byron (D); Rep. Ryan, Daniel (D); Rep. Scibak, John (D); Rep. Smizik, Frank (D); Rep. Stanley, Thomas (D); Rep. Tosado, Jose (D); Rep. Tucker, Paul (D); Rep. Vega, Aaron (D); Rep. Walsh, Chris (D); Sen. Boncore, Joseph (D); Sen. Brownsberger, William (D); Sen. Chang-Diaz, Sonia (D); Sen. Creem, Cynthia (D); Sen. Cyr, Julian (D); Sen. DiDomenico, Sal (D); Sen. Eldridge,

James (D); Sen. Hinds, Adam (D); Sen. Jehlen, Patricia (D); Sen. Keenan, John (D); Sen. Lewis, Jason (D); Sen. Rush, Michael (D)

Summary: Adds a number of provisions relative to GL c.25A (Division of Energy Resources), that are designed to combat climate change in the Commonwealth. In particular, the bill establishes carbon dioxide emissions charges, which are to be \$10 per ton of CO₂e. These charges are to increase by \$5 every year until the rate is \$40 per ton of CO₂e. In the sixth year of implementation, and every two years thereafter, the Commissioner of Energy Resources, in consultation with the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, is to report to the Legislature on global warming and climate change, including consideration of whether any increases or decreases in carbon dioxide emissions charges are recommended to account for inflation, to ensure progress towards reaching emissions limits for 2030, 2040, and 2050 included in the Climate Protection & Green Economy Act, to mitigate serious negative impacts on economic sectors, economic sub-sectors or individual employers of the Commonwealth caused by collection of carbon dioxide emissions charges. Separately, the bill establishes a Carbon Dioxide Emissions Charges Rebate Fund on the books of the Commonwealth, financed by the proposed charges. The commissioner of Energy Resources is then to return all carbon dioxide emissions charge proceeds to residents and employers in the Commonwealth in the form of rebates, in coordination with the Commissioner of Revenue and other agencies.

Status: Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy (JTU)

Complete 01/19/17 - S - Filed in the Senate

History: 02/22/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy

02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral

06/14/17 - Hearing Scheduled (6/20/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy Gardner Auditorium)

02/07/18 - S - Discharged and referred to Senate Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change

SB1870 - An Act to protect our environment and update our climate action plan

Sponsor: Sen. Pacheco, Marc (D)

Cosponsors: Former Rep. Heroux, Paul (D) ; Former Rep. Kocot, Peter (D) ; Rep. Calter, Thomas (D); Rep. DuBois, Michelle (D); Rep. Ehrlich, Lori (D); Rep. Goldstein-Rose, Solomon (I); Rep. Gonzalez, Carlos (D); Rep. Hecht, Jonathan (D); Rep. Scibak, John (D); Sen. Brady, Michael (D); Sen. Creem, Cynthia (D); Sen. Eldridge, James (D)

Summary: This ambitious bill establishes that no power generating facility in operation on and after January 1, 2017 will be allowed to utilize or gasify coal, and no utility may purchase and seek to sell electricity, in or out of state, from coal-fired power plant facilities. Further requires the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs to publish a plan detailing how the Commonwealth will provide support for all communities that hosted operational coal plants as of 2010, to enable a full site transition toward something that meets the needs of the towns as laid out by their elected municipal representatives; and how the Commonwealth will provide re-training and employment placement support for all currently unemployed workers who worked in a coal-burning power plant. Separately, the bill enacts a ban on hydraulic fracturing in the Commonwealth; require the identification of all the fossil fuel companies in which the Massachusetts Pension Reserves Investment Trust owns holdings, with a requirement to divest all publicly-traded holdings of each company identified within 5 years; requires the establishment of an economy-wide price on carbon; requires that the Department of Environmental Protection identify all Massachusetts public, private and agricultural enterprises providing methane emissions, and requires the promulgation of DEP regulations to encourage and provide incentives for increased use of anaerobic digesters; requires the Commonwealth as a whole to establish a goal of generating 20% of our total electricity use from solar energy by 2025; requires the promulgation of DER regulations to provide incentives to encourage increased use of smart meters; requires updating and strengthening the Stretch Energy Code; and requires the promulgation of regulations to develop and implement a clean fuel standard.

Status: Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy (JTU)

Complete 01/19/17 - S - Filed in the Senate

History: 02/22/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy

02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral

09/13/17 - Hearing Scheduled (9/19/17 1:00 PM - Joint Committee on Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy A-2)

02/21/18 - S - Accompanied study order

The House Budget:

HB2 - An Act making appropriations for fiscal year 2019

This is the Governor's proposed budget for 2019, which was filed with the House Committee on Ways & Means. Workforce development is an express priority in the budget. \$3 million has been appropriated for a workforce development grant, \$1 million for a "manufacturing college" for post-secondary voc tech education, \$25,500,000 for a workforce training trust fund, \$5 million for a workforce competitiveness trust fund, almost \$4 million to a school-to-career initiative for students, and \$4.25 million for STEM programs.

Sponsor: Governor

Cosponsors: No Cosponsors

Summary: The Governor's FY 2019 House 2 budget submission appropriates \$44,365,312,884 in 1122 line-items -- \$40.9 billion if you don't count chargebacks and federal grants -- which represents an increase of 2.6% over FY 2018 projected spending, according to the Governor. The Governor's recommendations anticipate a \$96 million deposit into the Stabilization Fund, which would bring total reserves to \$1.463 billion.

House 2 also increases unrestricted local aid by 3.5%, equal to 100% of the consensus revenue tax growth estimate percentage, providing municipalities with \$1.099 billion in unrestricted general government aid.

Local education aid increases by \$118.6 million, including \$15 million for school districts that have seen significant enrollment of students from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Governor budgets \$24.3 million towards addressing the rising costs of healthcare for retirees, which was a major recommendation of the Foundation Budget Review Commission.

To address college unaffordability, the Governor proposes \$7.1 million to double the MassGrant program for community college students, which will cover all unmet need for students to cover tuition and fees at the Commonwealth's 15 community colleges. House 2 includes \$3 million in new funding for Early College programs, which will focus on partnerships between high schools and higher education institutions, and encourage students to enter STEM fields. House 2 also includes \$93.2 million in new funding at the Department of Mental Health, including \$84 million for strengthened community-based services for adults.

Status: House Committee on Ways and Means (HWM)

Complete: 01/24/18 - H - Filed in the House

History: 01/24/18 - H - Referred to House Committee on Ways & Means