



March 23, 2017

American Council of Engineering Companies/MA

Government Affairs Committee Tracking Report

HB1 - An Act making appropriations for fiscal year 2018

Sponsor: Governor

Summary: The Governor's budget submission for fiscal year 2017 proposes to spend \$37,208,448,194 in direct appropriations, \$535,187,161 in chargebacks, \$603,689,521 in retained revenue, and \$1,741,305,339 in consolidated transfers for a subtotal of \$40,088,630,215. In addition, the proposal includes \$2,485,382,614 in federal grant spending, bringing the appropriated subtotal up to \$42,574,012,829. Finally, there is \$12,133,627,886 in trust and other spending (the so-called "off budget" spending, which is not appropriated for), bringing the grand total for both appropriated and non-appropriated state spending to \$54,707,640,715. (Please note that the Governor gets to his \$39,553,443 figure by excluding federal grants, trust spending and budgetary non-tax revenue.)

The Governor's budget increases Chapter 70 education funding by \$72.1 million, supporting \$18.6 million for a redesigned quality kindergarten grant program to assist communities in achieving tuition-free, full-day kindergarten, and by adding over \$20 million to a revised charter school reimbursement formula and adding \$5.6 million for developing a next generation MCAS by \$5.6 million.

In the outside sections, the Governor proposes to explicitly authorize MassDOT to sell, lease or otherwise contract for advertising, including on or in its own facilities; expands the "dual enrollment" program by permitting students to enroll in nonprofit, degree-granting career technical institutions, in addition to public colleges; changes the formula by which the amount of benefits under the TAFDC program by increasing the amount of work-related expenses that may be retained by the recipient from \$150 to \$200 per month; establishes the MassHealth Delivery System Reform and SANE Trust Funds; equalizes the GIC contribution ratio at 25% for all employees, regardless of date of hire; streamlines the laboratory analysis of cocaine; expands MassHealth's ability to recover benefits paid on behalf of a deceased beneficiary, by allowing for the recovery of non-probate assets and the costs of Medicare Part D pharmacy payments made to the federal government, consistent with federal law; and increases the acute hospital assessment to support delivery system reform and increased Medicaid reimbursements to acute hospitals, among other things.

Progress:  Filed

Status: House Committee on Ways and Means (HWM)

Last Action: 03/16/17 - Hearing Scheduled (4/3/17 10:00AM - Joint Committee on Ways & Means Everett High School Library - 100 Elm Street, Everett)

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

01/26/17 - H - Referred to House Committee on Ways & Means

03/07/17 - Hearing Scheduled (3/31/17 10:00AM - Joint Committee on Ways & Means A1 & A2)

03/07/17 - Hearing Scheduled (3/29/17 10:00AM - Joint Committee on Ways & Means UMASS Amherst - The Old Chapel, 144 Hicks Way, Amherst)

03/07/17 - Hearing Scheduled (3/27/17 10:00AM - Joint Committee on Ways & Means Matthew J. Kuss Middle School 52 Globe Mills Ave, Fall River)


03/07/17 - Hearing Scheduled (3/21/17 10:00AM - Joint Committee on Ways & Means Reggie Lewis Center - 1350 Tremont St, Roxbury Crossing)

03/07/17 - Hearing Scheduled (3/20/17 10:00AM - Joint Committee on Ways & Means Worcester State University - First Floor Student Center)

03/07/17 - Hearing Scheduled (3/16/17 10:00AM - Joint Committee on Ways & Means Endicott College - 376 Hale St, Beverly)
03/07/17 - Hearing Scheduled (3/15/17 10:00AM - Joint Committee on Ways & Means CANCELLED - Everett High School - 100 Elm Street, Everett)
03/07/17 - Hearing Scheduled (3/9/17 10:00AM - Joint Committee on Ways & Means A1 & A2)
03/16/17 - Hearing Scheduled (4/3/17 10:00AM - Joint Committee on Ways & Means Everett High School Library - 100 Elm Street, Everett)


HB68 - An Act to reorganize the Department of Public Safety

Sponsor: Governor
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.

Progress:  Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight (JSA)
Last Action: 03/21/17 - House Session (3/22/17 11:00 AM House Chamber)
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 11:00AM - 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)

HB73 - An Act financing improvements to municipal roads and bridges

Sponsor: Governor
Summary: This mini-budget making three appropriations, totaling \$300 million, is intended to provide for a program of transportation development and improvements. In particular, the budget establishes three new line-items, including \$200 million (6122-1720) for the construction and reconstruction of municipal ways, \$30 million (6622-1787) for the mobility assistance program and \$70 million (1709-3005) for costs associated with planning and studies, the preparation of plans and specifications, purchase, procurement and implementation of information technology-related equipment and related projects for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. Finally, the bill includes three separate sections providing bonding in the same amount for these three projects.

Progress:  Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on Transportation (JTR)
Last Action: 03/13/17 - H - Reported by committee in part - see HB2783
Complete 02/16/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 02/21/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Transportation
02/23/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
03/01/17 - Hearing Scheduled (3/6/17 11:00AM - Joint Committee on Transportation B-1)
03/13/17 - H - Reported by committee in part - see HB2783

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

Sponsor: Rep. Cantwell, James (D)
Summary: Amends; GL 44B:6 by directing that, in coastal communities that adopt the community preservation act, at least 10% of the annual revenue in the community preservation be set aside

to fund for the preservation of public infrastructure through beach nourishment, dune restoration, and seawall maintenance and reconstruction.

Progress:  Referred to Committee

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

Last Action: 02/23/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral

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

HB405 - An Act relative to the financing of dredging projects

Sponsor: Rep. Cantwell, James (D)

Summary: Adds 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, restitution 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.

Progress:  Referred to Committee

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

Last Action: 02/23/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral


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

HB1317 - An Act establishing the building code coordinating council

Sponsor: Rep. Walsh, Chris (D)

Summary: Eliminates the technical code council in GL 143:94 and establishes the Building Code Coordinating Council in a new section 101 of GL Chapter 143. The BCCC will be comprised of 12 members and is tasked with comparing and coordinating all existing and proposed construction codes to eliminate redundancies and conflicts. The BCCC will have the power to reject proposed regulations that are inconsistent, conflicting or redundant. Further, the BCCC is directed to establish procedures for considering public comment and for submission and approval of proposed regulations.

Progress:  Referred to Committee

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

Last Action: 02/24/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral


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

HB1603 - An Act establishing a local option gasoline and diesel fuel excise

Sponsor: Rep. Pignatelli, William (D)

Summary: Adds new section 14 to GL Chapter 64A to authorize any city or town to impose a local excise tax on the sale of gasoline and diesel fuel not to exceed 3 cents per gallon. Each city or town imposing such an excise tax is directed to establish a Municipal Fuel Excise Transportation Fund, in which all revenue from the fuel excise will be deposited.

Progress:  Referred to Committee

Status: Joint Committee on Revenue (JRV)

Last Action: 02/24/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral

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

HB1663 - An Act relative to privatization contracts

Sponsor: Rep. Donahue, Daniel (D)
Summary: Amends provisions of GL 7:53 relative to the 'Pacheco' privatization contracts by taking out of the definition of privatization contracts the existing exemption for planning, engineering or design services. In effect, planning, engineering or design services will now be subject to the Pacheco law.
Progress: Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight (JSA)
Last Action: 02/24/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
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

HB1725 - An Act relative to local energy investment and infrastructure modernization

Sponsor: Rep. Benson, Jennifer (D)
Summary: No Summary
Progress: Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy (JTU)
Last Action: 02/24/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
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

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

Sponsor: Rep. Benson, Jennifer (D)
Summary: No Summary
Progress: Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy (JTU)
Last Action: 02/24/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
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

HB1778 - An Act relative to underground infrastructure

Sponsor: Rep. Walsh, Chris (D)
Summary: Amends GL 164 by inserting a new §71A; directs the department of public utilities to promulgate rules and regulations relating to the construction of utility infrastructure designed to shield utility infrastructure from damage due to storms, vandalism, security issues, and maintenance issues, overload issues; directs the department of utilities to prioritize and incentivize the creation of underground utilities wherever feasible.
Progress: Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy (JTU)
Last Action: 02/24/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
Complete: 01/09/17 - 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

HB1813 - An Act relative to public safety in excavation

Sponsor: Rep. Cronin, Claire (D)
Summary: No Summary
Progress: Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on Transportation (JTR)
Last Action: 02/24/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
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

HB1828 - An Act to explore alternative funding sources to ensure safe and reliable transportation

Sponsor: Rep. Farley-Bouvier, Tricia (D)

Summary: Establishes a pilot program to assess owners of motor vehicles a user fee that is based on the number of miles traveled on roads in this state by those motor vehicles (as an alternative to the 'diminishing' fuel tax revenues). The pilot programs is to include at least 1,000 volunteers across the Commonwealth who are representative of drivers of trucks, passenger and commercial vehicles, who will have on-board vehicle-mileage-counting equipment added to their vehicles; the program is to test the reliability, ease of use, cost, and public acceptance of a user fee program; MassDOT 'may' refund motor vehicle fuel taxes paid by participants in the pilot program or may 'otherwise' compensate participants.

Progress: Referred to Committee

Status: Joint Committee on Transportation (JTR)

Last Action: 02/24/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral

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

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

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

HB1843 - An Act to promote transportation demand management

Sponsor: Rep. Hecht, Jonathan (D)

Summary: No Summary

Progress: Referred to Committee

Status: Joint Committee on Transportation (JTR)

Last Action: 02/24/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral

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

HB1874 - An Act relative to Route 128 interchange improvements

Sponsor: Rep. Parisella, Jerald (D)

Summary: Directs the creation of a timeline for the implementation of the completed plan for interchange improvements along Route 128. The report, including a proposed start date and date of completion shall be delivered to the Joint Committee on Transportation no later than 12/31/13. (No general or session laws cited).

Progress: Referred to Committee

Status: Joint Committee on Transportation (JTR)

Last Action: 02/24/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral

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

HB1893 - An Act relative to transportation infrastructure value capture

Sponsor: Rep. Straus, William (D)

Summary: No Summary

Progress: Referred to Committee

Status: Joint Committee on Transportation (JTR)

Last Action: 02/24/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral

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

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

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

HB2115 - An Act relative to drought management

Sponsor: Rep. Dykema, Carolyn (D)

Summary: No Summary

Progress: Referred to Committee

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

Last Action: 03/08/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral

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

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

Sponsor: Rep. Dykema, Carolyn (D)
Summary: No Summary
Progress: Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)
Last Action: 03/08/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
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

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

Sponsor: Rep. Dykema, Carolyn (D)
Summary: No Summary
Progress: Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)
Last Action: 03/08/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
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

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

Sponsor: Rep. Rogers, David (D)
Summary: No Summary
Progress: Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)
Last Action: 03/08/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
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

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


Sponsor: Rep. Smizik, Frank (D)
Summary: No Summary
Progress: Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)
Last Action: 03/08/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
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

HB2595 - An Act relative to the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust


Sponsor: Rep. Garballey, Sean (D)
Summary: No Summary
Progress: Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on Revenue (JRV)

Last Action: 03/08/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
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


HB2728 - An Act to promote safety, efficiency and accountability in transportation projects through public inspections

Sponsor: Rep. Donahue, Daniel (D)
Summary: No Summary
Progress:  Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on Transportation (JTR)
Last Action: 03/08/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
Complete 01/19/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 03/08/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Transportation
03/08/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral


HB2783 - An Act financing improvements to municipal roads and bridges

Sponsor: Joint Committee on Transportation
Summary: Appropriates \$200,000,000 for the construction and reconstruction of municipal ways; sets forth procedures for cities and towns to follow in expending said funds; further appropriates \$70,000,000 to MassDOT for costs associated with information technology-related equipment and related projects; establishes the terms of the bonds to be issued to finance these expenditures.
Progress:  Referred to Committee
Status: House Committee on Ways and Means (HWM)
Last Action: 03/22/17 - H - Referred to House Committee on Ways & Means with the amendment pending
Complete 03/13/17 - H - Reported by committee in part of HB73
History: 03/13/17 - H - Reported favorably by Joint Committee on Transportation
03/13/17 - H - Referred to House Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets
03/14/17 - Hearing Scheduled (3/21/17 11:00AM - House Committee on Bonding Capital Expenditure and State Assets B-2)
03/22/17 - H - Reported favorably as amended by House Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets
03/22/17 - H - Referred to House Committee on Ways & Means with the amendment pending

HB3243 - An Act to amend the lead law to include water piping

Sponsor: Rep. Holmes, Russell (D)
Summary: No Summary
Progress:  Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on Public Health (JPH)
Last Action: 03/20/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral
Complete 01/20/17 - H - Filed in the House
History: 03/20/17 - H - Referred to Joint Committee on Public Health
03/20/17 - S - Concurred in committee referral

HD3761 - An Act regulating and insuring short-term rentals

Sponsor: Rep. Michlewitz, Aaron (D)
Summary: No Summary
Progress:  Filed
Status: Filed in the House (FILE/H)
Last Action: 01/31/17 - H - Filed in the House
Complete 01/31/17 - H - Filed in the House
History:

SB81 - An Act promoting housing and sustainable development

Sponsor: Sen. Chandler, Harriette (D)

Summary: This very substantial legislation makes global changes in the zoning and municipal planning process with the intent of updating antiquated zoning laws that have not be updated in over thirty years. Among other things, the bill establishes that no zoning ordinance or by-law may prohibit or require a special permit for the use of land or structures for an accessory dwelling unit or its rental in a single-family residential zoning district on a lot with 5,000 square feet or more or on a lot of sufficient area to meet the requirements of Title V, among other things; requires the Secretary of Housing and Economic Development, in Consultation with the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, the Secretary of Transportation and the Attorney General to develop a municipal opt-in program to advance the state's economic, environmental and social well-being through enhanced planning for economic growth, land conservation, workforce housing creation and mobility.

Establishes that zoning ordinances and by-laws must provide at least one district of reasonable size in every municipality in which multi-family housing is a permitted use as of right. a city or town may satisfy the requirement of this subsection by obtaining a determination from the Department of Housing and Community Development, acting directly or through a regional planning agency as its designee, that the multi-family provisions of its zoning ordinance or by-law are consistent with the Department's regulations; and establishes that any change in the voting majority required to adopt a zoning ordinance, by-law or amendment be made by the voting majority then in effect and will not become effective until 6 months have elapsed after the vote, and it must be between a simple majority and a 2/3 majority vote.

Inserts new provisions for site plan review; establishes regulations for any zoning ordinance or by-law that requires site plan review for uses allowed by right; replaces the current section dealing with a municipality's master plan by making substantial changes in the section. These include, among other things, a much greater emphasis on the identification of the significant natural and energy resources of the municipality, of growth and development areas that support the revitalization of city and town centers, and of areas for economic development and job creation; authorizes the establishment of a master plan in every city or town by the planning board of the municipality.

(Although not technically a redraft, this is essentially the same bill (SB2311) as reported out of Senate Ways & Means in the 2015-16 Session. That version was eventually printed as amended (SB2327) and received in the House, but died in the Joint Committee on Rules.)

Progress:  Referred to Committee

Status: Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Businesses (JCD)

Last Action: 02/23/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral

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

History: 02/22/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Businesses

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


02/23/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Businesses

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

SB92 - An Act to promote livable communities and zoning reform act

Sponsor: Sen. Pacheco, Marc (D)

Summary: This bill is intended to encourage growth in appropriate and identified places, to support development in areas where infrastructure is already in place, to discourage sprawl, and to discourage growth in environmentally sensitive areas in order to protect the Commonwealth's most valuable remaining natural resources before they are lost. The bill establishes and regulates the Council for a Sustainable Commonwealth; articulates the powers and duties of the council, which includes encouraging cooperation among levels of government in protecting and coordinating the uses of the Commonwealth's land and resources, encouraging sustainable growth, discouraging wasteful use of natural resources, supporting transportation and creating affordable housing; requires each regional planning commission to develop a regional sustainable development plan for use by the council; establishes the Sustainable Development Grant Fund, funded through the Commonwealth and administered by said council, to provide grants to municipalities and regional planning commissions for activities relating to the established goals of the act.

Progress:  Referred to Committee

Status: Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Businesses (JCD)
Last Action: 02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
Complete: 01/19/17 - S - Filed in the Senate
History: 02/22/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Businesses
02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral

SB413 - An Act relative to sustainable water conservation practices

Sponsor: Sen. deMacedo, Viriato (Vinny) (R)
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.
Progress: Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)
Last Action: 02/23/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
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

SB419 - An Act protecting the natural resources of the Commonwealth

Sponsor: Sen. Eldridge, James (D)
Summary: Inserts a new Chapter 132C into the General Laws relative to protecting the natural resources of the Commonwealth to provide that anyone proposing that lands acquired for the purposes of conservation be used for another purpose shall mitigate the loss by
Progress: Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)
Last Action: 02/23/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
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


SB423 - An Act improving municipal water infrastructure

Sponsor: Sen. Eldridge, James (D)
Summary: No Summary
Progress: Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)
Last Action: 02/23/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
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


SB425 - An Act relative to drought management

Sponsor: Sen. Eldridge, James (D)
Summary: No Summary
Progress: Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)
Last Action: 02/23/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
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


SB468 - An Act relative to community preservation funds for seawall repairs

Sponsor: Sen. O'Connor, Patrick (R)
Summary: No Summary
Progress:  Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)
Last Action: 02/23/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
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


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

Sponsor: 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.
Progress:  Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture (JEN)
Last Action: 02/23/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
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

SB1032 - An Act relative to the documentation of contracted workers

Sponsor: Sen. O'Connor, Patrick (R)
Summary: Adds a new §to GL 149, the statute governing Labor and Industries, to require health care employers to perform annual assessments of the risk of workplace assaults and homicides; requires such employers to develop and implement a program to reduce such da
Progress:  Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development (JLW)
Last Action: 02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
Complete: 01/19/17 - S - Filed in the Senate
History: 02/22/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development
02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral

SB1065 - An Act strengthening local control over recreational marijuana businesses

Sponsor: Sen. Lewis, Jason (D)
Summary: No Summary
Progress:  Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on Marijuana Policy
Last Action: 02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
Complete: 01/20/17 - S - Filed in the Senate

Status: Joint Committee on Revenue (JRV)
Last Action: 02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
Complete 01/21/17 - S - Filed in the Senate
History: 02/22/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Revenue
02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral

SB1560 - An Act for revenue-neutral carbon surcharge via shift from sales tax to transportation fuel tax

Sponsor: Sen. Lewis, Jason (D)
Summary: Amends GL 64A:1, the statute governing Taxation of Sales of Gasoline, by replacing the current 21 cents per gallon gas tax with a tax of 7.5% of the average price per gallon; the rate increases to 9% on 1/1/16, 11% on 1/1/17 and 13.5% on 1/1/2018; prohibits the tax from falling below 23 cents per gallon. Further attempts to reduce the sales tax by 0.25% over the same three-year period.
Progress: Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on Revenue (JRV)
Last Action: 02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
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

SB1561 - An Act relative to stormwater management and climate change adaptation incentives

Sponsor: Sen. Lewis, Jason (D)
Summary: Adds new section 5O to GL Chapter 59 to authorize a property tax exemption for Class One properties to be accepted by cities and towns that would equal no more than 20% of the average assessed value of all Class One, residential parcels within such city or town beginning on July 2, 2015.
Progress: Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on Revenue (JRV)
Last Action: 02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
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

SB1567 - An Act clarifying occupancy excise and internet hotel room resellers

Sponsor: Sen. Montigny, Mark (D)
Summary: Amends various sections of GL Chapter 64G, the statutes governing room occupancy excise tax, to define 'doing business in the commonwealth' in an effort to include online resellers as business operators subject to excise tax in the commonwealth; imposes a 5% excise on on-line room resellers, unless the amount for the room is less than \$15 per day; provides further instructions on how excise tax will be assessed with respect to such room resellers; repeals section 95 of chapter 173 of the Acts of 2008 to eliminate certain tax deductions available to unitary businesses.
Progress: Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on Revenue (JRV)
Last Action: 02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
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

SB1616 - An Act updating and modernizing the room occupancy excise

Sponsor: Sen. Rodrigues, Michael (D)
Summary: No Summary
Progress: Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on Revenue (JRV)
Last Action: 02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral

Status: Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight (JSA)
Last Action: 02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
Complete: 01/20/17 - 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


SB1768 - An Act justifying the use of project labor agreements

Sponsor: Sen. Tarr, Bruce (R)
Summary: Directs an awarding authority electing to require a project labor agreement to report to the inspector general within 60 days of such decision. The authority must state the project is of the size, duration, timing, and complexity which requires a project labor agreement, and provide a comparative analysis of any benefits of the agreement that led the authority to conclude that such agreement was required and any increased costs as a result. (No general or session laws cited).

Progress:  Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight (JSA)
Last Action: 02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
Complete: 01/12/17 - 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

SB1821 - An Act combating climate change


Sponsor: Sen. Barrett, 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.

Progress:  Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy (JTU)
Last Action: 02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
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


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

Sponsor: Sen. Pacheco, Marc (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.

Progress:  Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy (JTU)
Last Action: 02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
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

SB1875 - An Act relative to local energy investment and infrastructure modernization

Sponsor: Sen. Pacheco, Marc (D)
Summary: No Summary
Progress:  Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy (JTU)
Last Action: 02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
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

SB1880 - An Act creating 21st century Massachusetts clean energy jobs


Sponsor: Sen. Pacheco, Marc (D)
Summary: This ambitious bill, comprising 80 pages and 66 sections, provides a comprehensive template for the state government's promotion of clean energy jobs.

Initially, the bill enacts two new chapters into the General Laws: Chapter 21N½, the 'Global Warming Solutions Implementation Act,' and Chapter 21P, the 'Comprehensive Adaptation Management Action Planning in Response to Climate Change.'

Chapter 21N½ would require the adoption of interim 2030 and 2040 emissions limits, and establish that for 2030 these limits be between 35% and 45% below the 1990 level, and for 2040 55% and 65%. The Commonwealth is to employ a 'back-casting methodology,' comparable to that conducted by the European Union in support of its Roadmap 2050 effort.

Chapter 21P would require the Commonwealth to to develop a Comprehensive Adaptation Management Action Plan, to be revised annually. The plan is to provide a process for local and regional climate vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategy development and implementation, among other things. The Commonwealth is also to create a Comprehensive Adaptation Management Action Plan Advisory Commission.

Other provisions in this act include a 'systems benefit assessment' or tax of \$.025 per gallon on each gallon of oil heat fuel sold for residential or commercial use to establish oil heat energy efficiency programs; an 'Alternative Compliance Payment' to tax retail electricity suppliers in order to discharge their Renewable Portfolio Standard obligation; and a requirement that every distribution company must jointly and competitively solicit proposals for offshore wind energy generation, among many other provisions.

Progress:  Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy (JTU)
Last Action: 02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
Complete: 01/20/17 - 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

SB1935 - An Act to study the feasibility of high-speed rail access between Springfield and Boston

Sponsor: Sen. Lesser, Eric (D)

Summary: Directs MassDOT to conduct a feasibility study relative to high-speed rail access between the city of Springfield and the city of Boston; articulates several areas of investigation for the study; requires the Department to file its report with the legislature not later than August 1, 2016.

Progress:  Referred to Committee

Status: Joint Committee on Transportation (JTR)

Last Action: 02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral

Complete 01/21/17 - S - Filed in the Senate

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

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

SB1940 - An Act to explore alternative funding sources to ensure safe and reliable transportation

Sponsor: Sen. Lewis, Jason (D)

Summary: Establishes a pilot program to assess owners of motor vehicles a user fee that is based on the number of miles traveled on roads in this state by those motor vehicles (as an alternative to the 'diminishing' fuel tax revenues). The pilot program is to include at least 1,000 volunteers across the Commonwealth who are representative of drivers of trucks, passenger and commercial vehicles, who will have on-board vehicle-mileage-counting equipment added to their vehicles; the program is to test the reliability, ease of use, cost, and public acceptance of a user fee program; MassDOT 'may' refund motor vehicle fuel taxes paid by participants in the pilot program or may 'otherwise' compensate participants.

Progress:  Referred to Committee

Status: Joint Committee on Transportation (JTR)

Last Action: 02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral

Complete 01/13/17 - S - Filed in the Senate

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

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

SB1944 - An Act to establish a Massachusetts Transportation Endowment Fund (MTEF)

Sponsor: Sen. Lewis, Jason (D)

Summary: Adds a new chapter to the General Laws establishing a trust fund for capital construction on mass transit assets. Further specifies a yearly contribution by the legislature and the amount that may be expended each year; establishes a 5-member board to approve projects and specifies the qualifications for-membership.

Progress:  Referred to Committee

Status: Joint Committee on Transportation (JTR)

Last Action: 02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral

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

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


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

SB1952 - An Act directing the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to assess the current status of the Commonwealth's transportation system


Sponsor: Sen. McGee, Thomas (D)

Summary: Requires the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to develop and publish a comprehensive assessment of the current capacity, safety conditions and the state of good repair of the Commonwealth's transportation system, including all modes of surface transportation. The assessment is to analyze the current planned operating and capital expenditures of the Department, including the MBTA and the regional transit authorities, and is to determine the 'baseline' of the surface transportation revenues currently available and projected to be available from all sources in all modes of surface transportation, regardless of the fund in which they are kept, from fiscal year 2016 through fiscal year 2026. The Board is to recommend both operational and governance reforms, cost savings and potential new revenue sources pertaining to both operating and capital funds in fiscal year 2016 through fiscal year 2026 to fully address any deficiencies in capacity, safety or state of good repair identified in its


assessment.

Progress:  Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on Transportation (JTR)
Last Action: 02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
Complete 01/19/17 - S - Filed in the Senate
History: 02/22/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Transportation
02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral


SB1958 - An Act establishing a Massachusetts Infrastructure Bank

Sponsor: Sen. McGee, Thomas (D)
Summary: No Summary
Progress:  Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on Transportation (JTR)
Last Action: 02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
Complete 01/19/17 - S - Filed in the Senate
History: 02/22/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Transportation
02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral


SB1959 - An Act establishing the Metropolitan Transportation Network

Sponsor: Sen. McGee, Thomas (D)
Summary: No Summary
Progress:  Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on Transportation (JTR)
Last Action: 02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
Complete 01/19/17 - S - Filed in the Senate
History: 02/22/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Transportation
02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral

SB1977 - An Act enhancing local road construction


Sponsor: Sen. Ross, Richard (R)
Summary: Amends GL 6C:3, the statute governing powers of the Department of Transportation, to prohibit MassDOT from requiring any city or town to construct or reconstruct any public way with a design speed that exceeds the posted speed that will be assigned upon completion.
Progress:  Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on Transportation (JTR)
Last Action: 02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
Complete 01/20/17 - S - Filed in the Senate
History: 02/22/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Transportation
02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral

SB1981 - An Act relative to the composition of the MassDOT board of directors

Sponsor: Sen. Rush, Michael (D)
Summary: Amends GL 6C:2 (MBTA Board of Directors) to reduce the number of Board members from 11 to 8; gives the Mayor of Boston the authority to appoint one member; caps annual travel reimbursements to members at \$3,000; requires that not more than five directors be members of the same political party.
Progress:  Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on Transportation (JTR)
Last Action: 02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
Complete 01/20/17 - S - Filed in the Senate
History: 02/22/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Transportation
02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral


SB1987 - An Act relative to tolls on the roadways of the Commonwealth

Sponsor: Sen. Spilka, Karen (D)
Summary: No Summary

Progress:  Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on Transportation (JTR)
Last Action: 02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
Complete: 01/20/17 - S - Filed in the Senate
History: 02/22/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Transportation
02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral

SB1994 - An Act relative to a fix it first plan

Sponsor: Sen. Tarr, Bruce (R)
Summary: Directs the Secretary of Transportation to, within 180 days of the passage of this Act, issue a 5 year plan prioritizing projects to: (1) reduce the number of structurally deficient bridges; (2) reduce congestion attributable to disrepair; (3) improve urban and rural pavement conditions; (4) improve interstate pavement conditions; increase maintenance disbursements; (5) return bus and transit assets to a state of good repair; (6) improve track and signalization conditions; and (7) otherwise eliminate the backlog on transit, road and bridge projects; prohibits the inclusion of any capital expansion projects in said plan.

Progress:  Referred to Committee
Status: Joint Committee on Transportation (JTR)
Last Action: 02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral
Complete: 01/19/17 - S - Filed in the Senate
History: 02/22/17 - S - Referred to Joint Committee on Transportation
02/22/17 - H - Concurred in committee referral