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ACEC/Matters - News from ACEC/Massachusetts

Dear ACEC/MA Member,

Here's Your 6/17/21 ACEC/Matters

Save the Date:
September 30, 2021

We're planning an in-person Engineering Excellence Awards Gala for 2020 + 2021 Projects and other Awards. **More info soon!**



Last Chance to Register is 6/17, 3PM

Annual Celebration @ Polar Park

ACEC/MA In Person Program!

6/18, 12:15 - 2 PM

Worcester, MA

[June 17, 3PM Registration Deadline!](#)

Polar Park is in the heart of the Worcester's resurgent Canal District. Learn more about this fascinating project on June 18. Join us **In Person** as we celebrate our FY2021 and FY2022 Board and Committee/Forum Leaders.

Box Lunch | Networking | Tour of the New Home of the Worcester Red Sox



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Government Affairs

Legislative Action Alert:

Urge the Massachusetts Legislature to Adopt the House's FY'22 Funding



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Recommendation for the Contract Assistance Line-Item (1599-0093)

We need **your grassroots advocacy** to urge your legislators to ask the **Legislature's Conference Committee to support the House # FY22 Funding Recommendation for the Contract Assistance Line-Item (1599-0093)**

The House funded the contract assistance line-item, 1599-0093, at \$63,383,680, which represented level funding from FY'21. The Senate appropriated the significantly reduced amount of \$39,014,000.

Please contact your State Senator and your State Representative by June 23 and ask them to strongly encourage the Budget Conference Committee to accept the House's funding recommendation of \$63,383,680 for the Contract Assistance Line-item 1599-0093.

Now more than ever, with more unknowns due to PFAS and other issues, we don't want to see a cut in funding for this critical tool for municipalities

[These materials contains talking points](#) which you can use in a phone call or an email to your State Senator and your State Representative, including a chart showing the Historical Funding of the Contract Assistance Line-Item for FY'01 to FY'22

Find Your State Legislators' contact information here:
<https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>

More Government Affairs News:

The COVID-19 state of emergency lifted on June 16, ending most of the executive orders Gov. Charlie Baker put in place to force restrictions and special allowances during the 15-month-long crisis.

Affiliates, Inc
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Haley Ward, Inc
Hardesty & Hanover
Howard Stein Hudson
Hoyle, Tanner &
Associates, Inc
Patrick Engineering, Inc
Stacey DePasquale
Engineering (SDE)
STV
Triunity, Inc

S 2475, <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S2475>

On June 15, the legislature passed S 2475, a bill that would allow **remote meetings of public bodies until April 1, 2022**; Governor Baker signed it into law on June 16. This bill also:

- Temporarily reinstates remote permissions for representative town meetings, nonprofit member meetings, notary services and reverse-mortgage loan counseling, along with eviction protections, flexibilities for assisted living residences, and the ability for medical assistants, podiatrists, phlebotomists, and certain military personnel to administer COVID-19 vaccines.
- Permits to-go beer, wine, and cocktail sales by restaurants through 5/1/22, along with language requiring that takeout and delivery drinks be sold at the same prices as those consumed on-site.
- Special permits for expanded outdoor dining are valid until 4/21/22
- Other matters, including Senate-backed billing protections for COVID-19 care and a House-approved cap on fees that delivery apps charge restaurants, remain before the conference committee.

H 3827, <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H3827>

The governor has until June 17 to act on H 3827, a bill that would steer \$5.3B in federal aid into a new Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund. Last week the Legislature passed the bill to move the state's lump sum of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) federal assistance into a "segregated fund" to be appropriated separately from the state budget process. The Governor's office has suggested it is not on board with the Legislature's plan, maintaining that the discretionary funding does not require legislative appropriation. We're monitoring this situation.



[ACEC Last Word blog:](#)
News & insight on the
Council & the A/E/C
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ACEC/MA Forums & Committees

Open to All Members

If Your Firm is an

[ACEC/MA Member](#),

**YOU're an ACEC/MA
Member.**

ACEC/MA's Government Affairs Committee

(GAC) reviews bills impacting our Engineering / PLS / A/E community.

Next GAC Meeting = 6/25 @ 8 AM on Zoom

[Join ACEC/MA Government Affairs Committee](#)

PPP Loans / FAR Credits Clause Issue

ACEC Launches Advocacy Campaign to Resolve PPP/FAR Credits Clause Issue

ACEC has launched an integrated advocacy campaign in Washington D.C. and the states to build support for Congress to pass a legislative fix that would exempt engineering firms' forgiven PPP loans from the FAR credits clause.

The unifying theme of the campaign is that engineering firms shouldn't be singled out and penalized for acting in the best interests of their employees and clients.

The campaign includes traditional and social media placements from ACEC and our allies, spreading the message about PPP fairness to the audiences that matter to our industry. ACEC has already [advertised in leading Capitol Hill news outlets](#) and will leverage its digital marketing capabilities to reach influencers online and in the states.

*Members can participate in the campaign at www.acec.org/ppp. On the website, you will find an email template to send to members of Congress, a **Twitter template** to tweet out a message of support with the hashtag **#PPPFairness**, and a template for a letter to the editor to send to your local paper. **Let them know what this issue means for your business.***

Join us. *Our ability to convince Members of Congress to act on this issue depends on telling them why it is so critically important to firms. There is no better advocate than a constituent, especially a constituent business owner. Visit ACEC's campaign website at www.acec.org/ppp. If you need assistance, contact [Abbie Goodman](#) for resources to make your voice heard.*

Together, we can make a difference and fix the FAR once and for all.

[Read more about the Issue >](#)

Workforce Participation Goals with Deborah Anderson, AG's Office

We held this session on June 11 on the **Workforce Participation Goal Requirements under M.G.L. c. 149, § 44A(2)(G)**. Design professional firms will increasingly see contract language with reporting requirements for Chapter 149 design work, including state and municipal projects. **Deborah Anderson will join us again on 7/29/21 at our DEI Forum.**

[PDF of PPT >](#)

ACEC/MA Member Briefings ACEC/MA Risk Management Forum

6/24, 1 - 2 PM, Zoom

Implications associated with higher minimum limits of insurance required in contracts for professional services in light of the current insurance marketplace with Mike Herlihy, Ames & Gough.

[More Info >](#)

Save the Date:

ACEC/MA Health & Safety Forum

6/28, 2:30 - 4 PM, Zoom

RFR: Asset Management Consulting Engineers Prequalification for MA Clean Water Trust

The Massachusetts Clean Water Trust has issued a request for responses (RFR) for consulting engineering firms that wish to participate in the Trust's Asset Management Planning (AMP) Grant program. The RFR may be found on COMMBUYS.

Bid Solicitation: [BD-21-1108-TREWP-WPA00-63466](#)

Questions regarding this RFR due 6/11/21 by 2 PM.

Responses due 7/9/21 by 2 PM.

Program Registration:

**If Your Firm is an ACEC/MA Member, YOU're an ACEC/MA member. Get Member Rate for Webinars: Register with [your INDIVIDUAL assigned username/password.](#)*

- **Never use someone else's login info**
- **Need help? Contact acecma@engineers.org or 617-227-5551; Use a registration form for more than 1 person**

Links live 6/17; Next issue 6/24

ACEC/Matters: Produced by Sean McShane + Abbie Goodman

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