

ACEC/MA Web Legislative Report

March 18, 2020

This report shows bills that ACEC/MA is following during the 2019-2020 Legislative Session. Bills related to COVID-19 are tracked separately.

For a more detailed report, ACEC/MA Members are invited to participate in our monthly Government Affairs Committee Meeting by Zoom or in person.

Contact acecma@engineers.org to learn more.

HB766 (HD3681) - An Act relative to the control of tick-borne illness

Sponsor

Rep. Carolyn C. Dykema (D)

Summary

Amends various sections of GL Chapter 252 to expand the name and purpose of the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board to the State Reclamation, Mosquito and Tick Control Board; authorizes this Board to investigate tick management techniques to protect the public against tick-borne disease by making and publishing surveys of land with high rates of tick-borne disease and, upon request of a municipality, the Board may implement tick management techniques in that municipality and; changes the name of the Mosquito and Greenhead Fly Control Fund to the Mosquito, Greenhead Fly and Tick Control Fund.

HB777 (HD632) - An Act adjusting mobile gear fishing restrictions in Nantucket coastal waters to reflect regulations provided to the rest of Massachusetts coastal communities

Sponsor

Rep. Dylan Fernandes (D)

Summary

Prohibits the use of 'mobile gear,' as defined in 322 CMR 4.06, off the coast of Nantucket from May 1 through October 31 and establishes penalties. Mobile gear includes 'any moveable or encircling fishing gear or nets which are towed, hauled or dragged through the water for the harvest of fish' (including trawls and seines).

HB844 (HD643) - An Act to protect the rights of municipalities and districts

Sponsor

Rep. Alice Hanlon Peisch (D)

Summary

Amends GL 21G:5 (Massachusetts Water Management Act) to establish that all properly filed renewal registration statements will entitle the registrants to their registered water use volumes without conditions, provided, however, that the Department of Environmental Protection may require proper metering or other means to accurately measure the volume of water withdrawn under said statement; prohibits the department from promulgating regulations that would allow the imposition of any conditions other than withdrawal volume measurement.

HB881 (HD1223) - An Act relative to a cranberry water use transfer program

Sponsor

Rep. William M. Straus (D)

Summary

Directs the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to authorize the use of cranberry water registrations and permits under the Massachusetts Water Management Act (GL Chapter 21G) for mitigation efforts by other users within the same watershed.

HB1039 (HD1915) - An Act to reduce congestion and encourage shared rides

Sponsor

Rep. Jay D. Livingstone (D)

Summary

Removes the \$0.20 per-ride assessment on transportation network companies and replaces it with a percentage-based assessment of 4.25% for shared rides and 6.25% for individual rides; amends GL 159A½, governing TNCs, to require that TNCs display the difference between shared and individual rides; authorizes a \$2.25 local option congestion assessment effective during MBTA service hours; directs regulations issued under the chapter to include data sharing practices, disclosure to municipalities, MassDOT and regional planning agencies, and data collection.

HB1277 (HD3252) - An Act relative to accessory dwelling units

Sponsor

Rep. Stephan Hay (D)

Summary

Amends GL 40A:3 relative to subjects which zoning may not regulate by adding provisions establishing 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 the rental thereof 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 5 of the State Environmental Code that is occupied by the owner; the zoning ordinance or by-law may require that the principal dwelling or the accessory dwelling unit be owner-occupied and may limit the total number of accessory dwelling units in the municipality to a percentage not lower than 5% of the total non-seasonal housing units in the municipality; allows exterior alterations without further permitting to allow for separate primary or emergency access if they remain within applicable setback requirements.

HB1759 (HD1983) - An Act to improve the local infrastructure development program

Sponsor

Rep. Christine Barber (D)

Summary

Amends various provisions related to the operation of the local infrastructure development program (GL 23L); reduces the percentage of property owners who must sign a petition to establish a development zone from all persons owning property within the proposed boundaries to owners of either 51 percent of land area or assessed value; requires public hearings held within 120 days after receiving a petition to establish a development zone to include information on infrastructure rate assessments, including – including the rate, method of apportionment, and manner of collection; requires the information to be sufficiently detailed so real estate owners can estimate their maximum costs; requires any municipal resolutions that create a development zone to provide for their expiration in 35 years; authorizes the assessing party to exempt residential dwellings at or below 100 percent of median area income from assessments; regulates amendments to and abolition of such development zones; requires petitions seeking amendment or abolition to contain signatures by owners of at least 51 percent of land area or assessed value.

HB1798 (HD2624) - An Act to establish commonsense permitting reforms for businesses and landowners

Sponsor

Rep. Kevin G. Honan (D)

Summary

Amends various provisions of GL Chapter 40A (Zoning), to dictate that special permits should run with the land rather than be personal to the applicant; sets out formal criteria to be considered when decisions are made by the permit granting authority relative to applications for variances; adds new sections to create a procedure for a separate site plan review by the planning board and enumerates the process for successfully completing such review; prohibits the exaction of monetary value for completing any of the processes contained within this bill.

HB1802 (HD2684) - An Act regarding mandatory land use board training

Sponsor

Rep. Kevin G. Honan (D)

Summary

Amends provisions of GL 23B3: relative to the powers and duties of the Department of Housing and Community Development, to authorize the Department (in consultation with certain others) to establish, conduct and maintain an annual program of education, self-evaluation, and training for members of local planning boards and zoning boards of appeals, at no cost to municipalities; requires every member of local planning boards and zoning boards of appeals, within 60 days after becoming a board member (and every 2 years thereafter) to complete the education, self-evaluation, and training program, either online or in-person.

HB2012 (HD2182) - An Act to promote public health through the prevention and wellness trust fund

Sponsor

Rep. Aaron Vega (D)

Summary

Amends the Prevention and Wellness Trust enacted in GL 111:2G to expand the purposes of the Trust to include (1) increased access to community-based preventive services and interventions which complement and expand the ability of MassHealth to promote coordinated care, integrate community-based services with clinical care, and develop innovative ways of addressing social determinants of health; (2) reducing the impact of health conditions which are the largest drivers of poor health, health disparities, reduced quality of life, and high health care costs through community-based interventions; and (3) developing a stronger evidence-base of effective prevention interventions. Expands the Prevention and Wellness Advisory Board by adding one additional person, and by making the requirements for sitting on the Board as an appointee more explicit; charges the board with the programs of the Trust according to nine enumerated criteria; imposes an additional surcharge on acute hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers, which is to be added to all payments already subject to surcharge; this amount is to be equal the product of (i) the prevention wellness surcharge percentage and (ii) amounts paid for these services by a surcharge payor; the Medicaid Office is to calculate the prevention and cost control surcharge percentage by dividing \$33,000,000 by the projected annual aggregate payments subject to the surcharge, excluding projected annual aggregate payments based on payments made by managed care organizations. Allocates ten percent of amounts held in the marijuana regulation fund (GL 94G:14) to the Prevention and Wellness Trust Fund.

HB2403 (HD1365) - An Act relative to clarifying property tax exemptions for solar and wind systems

Sponsor

Rep. John Barrett (D)

Summary

Amends GL 59:5 (Property Tax Exemptions) to limit the existing statutory exemption for solar and wind powered systems to 125% of the annual energy needs of the real property upon which it is located; requires the owner of such property to make payments in lieu of taxes for any additional energy generation; amends GL 59:38H (Transition Payments to Municipalities in which an Affiliated Generation Facility is Located) to exclude sun and wind generation facilities from coverage under those sections. Additionally requires that each owner taking the credit make an annual declaration under oath to the assessors regarding the system and power generated for the previous calendar year. However, this last requirement will not apply to solar and wind powered systems for which the owner has signed an agreement with the city or town to make a payment in lieu of taxes.

HB2463 (HD2835) - An Act to preserve community preservation revenue

Sponsor

Rep. Ann-Margaret Ferrante (D)

Summary

Amends GL 44B:8 (community preservation – surcharges on real property), by increasing document recording fees imposed by the registry of deeds from \$20 to \$75; increases the fee imposed for filing a municipal lien certificate from \$10 to \$35; increases the fee imposed for filing a municipal lien certificate with multiple references from \$10 to \$35; prohibits imposing surcharges for the filing of any subordinate mortgage extended by any public agency or quasi-public agency; increases the fee for recording, filing or entering registered land from \$20 to \$75.

HB2472 (HD2257) - An Act relative to closing the water infrastructure funding gap with water and sewer connection fees

Sponsor

Rep. Sean Garballey (D)

Summary

Adds new Section to GL 29 (State Finance) to establish a Commonwealth Water Infrastructure Trust Fund; provides that the commissioner of the department of revenue shall be the trustee of the Fund and shall expend money in the fund to address the Commonwealth's water infrastructure needs; amends GL 40:22F (Municipal License Fees) to require each city or town that charges a fee for a permit to connect to the municipality's water or sewer services to collect an additional \$500 for a residential property connection and an additional \$1,000 for a commercial or industrial property connection, in addition to the municipality's established fee for such service, to be deposited in the Fund; requires the department of revenue to: (i) proportionately distribute, for the improvement of water infrastructure within that city or town, fifty percent of the amount received from the Fund to a city or town based on the amount of the additional fees collected in accordance with this Act by said city or town from the previous calendar year; (ii) distribute forty percent of the amount collected to

the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust to provide financial assistance in the funding of water infrastructure projects or any other purpose authorized to be funded by said Trust; and (iii) distribute ten percent of the amount collected to the department of revenue for administration and enforcement of this Act.

HB2619 (HD1148) - An Act clarifying property tax exemptions for solar and wind systems

Sponsor

Rep. Jeffrey N. Roy (D)

Summary

Amends GL 59:5 (Property Tax Exemptions) to limit the existing statutory exemption for solar and wind powered systems to 125% of the annual energy needs of the real property upon which it is located; requires the owner of such system/property to make payments in lieu of taxes for any additional energy generation; amends GL 59:38H (Transition Payments to Municipalities in which an Affiliated Generation Facility is Located) to exclude sun and wind generation facilities from coverage under said Section.

HB2653 (HD808) - An Act relative to regional transportation ballot initiatives

Sponsor

Rep. Andres Vargas (D)

Summary

Enacts a new Chapter 64N, entitled 'An Act Relative to Regional Transportation Ballot Initiatives,' into the General Laws. In particular, the new chapter would authorize a municipality (or a district formed from two or more municipalities) to impose a tax surcharge on one of four taxes from a list including payroll, sales, property, or vehicle excise tax, to be used for transportation-related purposes only. The Chapter then establishes the process for acceptance of the surcharge in a municipality or district; establishes the regulations governing the collection of the surcharge; establishes the regulations for governing the committee; and establishes the powers and duties of the committee; also establishes a Massachusetts Local and Regional Transportation Trust Fund, for the exclusive benefit of municipalities or districts accepting this Act; requires the Commonwealth to annually disburse from this fund an amount not to exceed the total surcharge collected in each municipality or district that has accepted this Act; authorizes the municipality to reduce or make changes in the amount of the surcharge or the amount of exemptions in the same manner as it were accepted; authorizes a municipality to revoke the surcharge after 5 years in the same manner as it was accepted; directs the Commissioner of Revenue to promulgate rules and regulations implementing these provisions. Finally, establishes a Massachusetts Local and Regional Transportation Trust Fund, to consist of all revenues received by the Commonwealth from the tax surcharge, from public and private sources as gifts, grants and donations, and all other monies credited to or transferred to from any other fund or source pursuant to law. Please note that this bill is substantially similar to SB1551 of the 2017-18 legislative cycle, but that there are many differences in specific language and in some of the particular requirements.

HB2710 (HD330) - An Act relative to the inclusion of certified interior designers on the designer selection board

Sponsor

Rep. Patricia A. Haddad (D)

Summary

Amends GL 7C:45 (Designer Selection Board) to increase the number of Board members from 11 to 13; adds three certified interior designers to the Board with not less than 10 years of experience; reduces the number of engineers on the Board from 3 to 2.

HB2769 (HD653) - An Act relative to state government processes to verify hours worked on computers for certain government contracts

Sponsor

Rep. Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr. (D)

Summary

Amends GL 7 to provide that public contracts for professional or technical services in excess of \$100,000 must require a contractor to use software to verify the hours billed for work under the contract that are performed on a computer; requires such a contract to specify that the agency will not pay for such hours unless they are verifiable by the software or by data collected by the software; articulates several requirements of such software and requires the contractor to procure it from an independent entity; deems the data collected by the software accounting records belonging to the contractor; requires the contractor to store data collected by said software for a period of seven years and to provide access to the contracting agency or auditor of the agency upon their request; prohibits the contractor from charging the agency or the agency auditor for access to or use of the work verification software, or for access to or retrievals of data collected by the software.

HB2802 (HD1248) - An Act to secure a clean energy future

Sponsor

Rep. Ruth B. Balsler (D)

Summary

Makes a variety of proposals as well as amendments to existing General Law with the general intent of reducing carbon-based emissions and promoting clean energy, with a special emphasis on consideration for minority and underserved populations. These proposals including requiring that 50% of the state vehicle fleet be zero emission vehicles by June 30, 2025; prohibiting any hydraulic fracturing from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2029; requiring the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs to adopt permanent 2030 statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit, and

provisional limits for 2040 and 21050; requiring the Secretary to promulgate regulations establishing market-based compliance mechanisms for the transportation sector, the commercial, industrial and institutional sectors, and the residential building sector; and prohibiting any unit of state and local government from promulgating a regulatory scheme that has the effect of discriminating against a person within the meaning of the MCAD enabling statute. The bill also establishes definitions for environmental justice, environmental justice population, and environmental justice household that targets people that have experienced a disproportionate environmental impact since Jan, 1, 1998, or where the annual median household income is equal to or less than 110% or in which minorities comprise 25% or more of the population, and which meet certain other contingencies. The bill requires the Division of Energy Resources to establish an energy storage system target for the deployment of energy storage systems by distribution company customers, distribution companies and municipal lighting plants to achieve a statewide energy storage deployment target of 2,000 megawatts by January 1, 2030. With respect to solar energy the bill strikes out the aggregate net metering cap of 7% of a distribution company's peak load; establishes that any facility which is at least 75% owned by (or at least 75% of which is producing net metering credits for) 3 or more individual residential customers, may accrue Class I net metering credits, if certain other triggers are met. Requires that there be at least 1 air monitoring station within a 1-mile radius of a working natural gas compressor station to collect data and verify compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards; authorizes municipalities to enter into community empowerment contracts relative to renewable energy projects on behalf of the customers within the municipality. Finally, the bill requires the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to develop and implement a program to promote private electric vehicle ownership with the goal of ensuring that 25% of vehicles be electric vehicles by December 31, 2030.

HB2815 (HD2773) - An Act relative to improving public safety in excavation

Sponsor

Rep. Antonio F.D. Cabral (D)

Summary

Amends provisions relative to excavations under GL 82; classifies municipal signal traffic departments as companies subject to excavation laws; requires professional land surveyors, as defined, to premark any proposed excavation for a new facility or renovation; requires premarkings for underground facilities projects to, when possible, indicate a width greater than 2 inches, the material of the underground facility, the existence of any ducts and a change in direction; permits the department of public utilities to assign companies who fail to comply with excavation requirement to complete 'Dig Safe' training in lieu of paying a fine for a first offense.

HB2831 (HD3854) - An Act authorizing resiliency measures under commercial property assessed clean energy

Sponsor

Rep. Mark J. Cusack (D)

Summary

Amends GL 23M:1 (commercial property assessed clean energy) by defining participation in a district heating and cooling system, participation in a microgrid that incorporates clean energy, or participation in an energy storage system when paired with renewable energy generation as commercial energy improvements eligible for financing for commercial PACE projects.

HB2836 (HD3092) - An Act re-powering Massachusetts with 100 percent renewable energy

Sponsor

Rep. Marjorie Decker (D)

Summary

Establishes a new GL 25D, the 100 Percent Renewable Energy Act; establishes a goal of having 100% of the energy needs of the commonwealth met with renewable energy by 2045; establishes a further goal of 100% renewable energy for consumption by residents, institutions, businesses, state and municipal agencies, and other entities by 2035; directs the secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs to establish an administrative council for the clean energy transition within 90 days of passage; regulates the membership and operation of the council; establishes a clean energy center of excellence at a public institution of higher education to conduct and sponsor research on renewable energy technologies, practices and barriers; establishes and regulates the membership and operation of a council for clean energy workforce development. Directs state agencies, including the Department of Energy Resources, the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance and the Department of Transportation to develop pathways to expand renewable energy sources, establish declining annual limits on the use of non-renewable energy and reach the 2045 goal of 100% renewable energy; requires municipal light plants to purchase 100 percent of their electricity from renewable energy sources by 2035; directs the department to establish a renewable heating trust fund to subsidize the conversion of residential and commercial buildings from fossil fuel heating to non-emitting heating technologies powered by renewable energy; requires the Pension Reserves Investment Management Board (PRIM) to take climate related financial risk into account in making investment decisions; amends provisions related to mandatory kilowatt hours sold to consumers derived from renewable energy sources.

HB2841 (HD3103) - An Act to expand the green communities program to mitigate climate change

Sponsor

Rep. Carolyn C. Dykema (D)

Summary

Amends GL 25A:10, governing green communities, to establish a new designation of 'Green Plus Community'; expands the list of energy efficiency technologies eligible for financing to include local energy storage, zero-emission vehicles, and clean energy financial and technical assistance; sets forth a procedure to qualify as a Green Plus community, including the construction of an emissions baseline inventory and adoption of a comprehensive program to reduce that inventory's emissions by 20% in five years; directs the Division of Green Communities to adopt a tracking system for community-wide emissions for use by municipalities; increases the automatic funding of the Green

Communities program from \$20 million to \$40 million, with a \$10 million carve-out for Green Plus communities; directs the division to issue new regulations regarding municipal light plant participation in the Green Communities program.

HB2859 (HD1485) - An Act improving recycling in the Commonwealth

Sponsor

Rep. Colleen M. Garry (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.

HB2863 (HD3054) - An Act relative to greenhouse gas emissions standards for municipal lighting plants, for the purpose of promoting the Commonwealth's goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions while acknowledging and preserving the statutory scheme of chapter 164 which places municipal lighting plant operations, finances, and rates under local control

Sponsor

Rep. Thomas A. Golden, Jr. (D)

Summary

Enacts a new section into GL 25A (Department of Energy Resources) establishing non-carbon emitting energy standards for municipal light plants; defines 'non-carbon emitting' broadly, listing sources including landfill methane, anaerobic digestion, and biomass, and including any power source with half or less of the greenhouse gas emissions of a state-of-the-art natural gas facility as well as any determined by DOER to be non-carbon emitting; requires plants to file a demonstration of compliance with the department or else make an alternative compliance payment into a fund controlled by the plant, to fund emissions reductions.

HB2924 (HD1626) - An Act relative to accountability of public funds used for wind turbines

Sponsor

Rep. Todd M. Smola (R)

Summary

Amends GL 23J:5, the statute governing annual reports of the Massachusetts Clean Energy Technology Center, to require that certain public funds, such as those distributed from the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust, which are used for wind turbines, be posted along with certain other information on a web site maintained by the Center and updated monthly.

HB2983 (HD3816) - An Act establishing transit improvement districts

Sponsor

Rep. Michelle Ciccolo (D)

Summary

Establishes a new GL Chapter 40X, regulating the establishment, operation and dissolution of transit improvement districts; defines transit improvement districts (TID) as specified areas in one or more municipalities, consisting of one or more parcels of land used for the implementation of transit improvement programs. Requires participating communities to develop program plans, including financial details such as anticipated indebtedness, sources of anticipated capital, and cost estimates across the listed cost types, duration of the program, administration, management and operational plans, expected partners and how the TID will fill transportation gaps; allows municipalities or groups to hold public meetings in each of the participating municipalities prior to adoption; requires acceptance of the TID by a majority vote of the appropriate legislative authority in participating municipalities and a vote of property owners within the TID. Authorizes and regulates the creation and collection of a transit improvement fee on owners of residential dwellings with up to three residential units, small commercial properties up to 5,000 square feet, and agricultural properties; requires participating municipalities to independently fund at least 20 percent of the TID costs; directs the Department of Transportation to identify and allocate funds to assist municipalities in establishing a transit improvement district; requires use of at least 30 percent of the funds for assisting municipalities with an average household income below that of the state.

HB3008 (HD3009) - An Act to advance modern and sustainable solutions for transportation

Sponsor

Rep. Lori Ehrlich (D)

Summary

Establishes and regulates the use of the modern and sustainable solutions for transportation trust fund, to be administered jointly by the secretaries of transportation and energy and environmental affairs; requires the use of monies in the fund for the listed transportation and environmental impact priorities, including enhancing and expanding mass transportation services, particularly in low income

or environmental justice areas, electrification of mass transportation services, adoption of transportation programs with lower environmental impact, including zero-emission vehicles and bicycle and pedestrian safety initiatives, and providing greater resiliency for the transportation infrastructure in the face of climate change; directs the department of environmental protection, the department of transportation and the executive office of energy and environmental affairs to develop a transportation climate program aimed at reducing transportation greenhouse gas emissions; requires the deposit of any proceeds from the program in the modern and sustainable solutions for transportation trust fund; establishes and regulates the membership and operation of a modern and sustainable solutions for transportation investment board; charges the board with developing criteria for evaluating the commonwealth's transportation needs as defined by the modern and sustainable solutions for transportation trust fund; requires the board to submit an annual plan of priority investments starting July 1, 2020.

HB3146 (HD1240) - An Act relative to transportation infrastructure value capture

Sponsor

Rep. William M. Straus (D)

Summary

Adds new Chapter 40X to the General Laws, entitled Supplemental Infrastructure Financing for Transportation (SIFT); authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to enter into SIFT agreements with municipalities authorizing cities and towns to collect and remit tax increment financing on transportation projects; lists SIFT agreement contents, including detailed descriptions of the project, boundaries of the SIFT district, the method of calculating the tax increment to be remitted and the board or officer responsible for calculating the tax increment; requires a municipal public hearing 30 days prior to any vote for approval; requires municipal approval by vote of any SIFT agreements prior to adoption; requires certification of the tax value of the property within SIFT boundaries.

HB3456 (HD3385) - An Act to ensure right to counsel in eviction proceedings

Sponsor

Rep. Chynah Tyler (D)

Summary

Generally provides a right to counsel in eviction proceedings. In particular Amends GL c.239 (Summary Process for Possession of Land) to add a new §2B that establishes a right to counsel for tenants or occupants in an action by a lessor of land or tenements used for residential purposes to recover possession (including the right to have counsel appointed if the person is indigent); adds a new §19½ to GL c.139 (Common Nuisances) creating a parallel right to counsel in cases where the landlord wants to void a lease or recover possession; and further amends GL c.211D (Committee for Public Counsel Services) to require CPCS to supervise and maintain a system for the appointment of counsel for the provision of legal services for indigents subject to summary process or similar proceedings. Separately, the bill also establishes and regulates a public task force to develop an

implementation plan to effectuate a right to counsel in eviction proceedings pursuant to chapter 239 and chapter 139.

HB4002 (HD4396) - An Act authorizing and accelerating transportation investment

Sponsor

Governor

Summary

Submits the Governor's recommendations authorizing and accelerating transportation investment by appropriating \$18 billion in 24 line-items for transportation-related capital projects. These projects include \$5.6 billion for federal highway system projects, \$3.4 billion for sustainable transit system modernization, \$2.7 billion for roadway and bridge projects, \$1.25 billion for bridge reconstruction, \$825 million for South Coast Rail improvements, \$595 million for the Green Line extension, \$475 million for transportation planning, \$400 million for rail improvements, \$400 million for improvements to South Station, \$350 million for transportation infrastructure, \$330 million for transportation facilities, \$300 million for rail improvements, \$250 million for the Allston Multimodal project, \$200 million for municipal ways, \$175 million for additional rail transportation projects, \$150 million for airport improvements, \$150 million for improvements to state numbered routes, \$100 million for municipal roadway repair, \$70 million for the municipal small bridge program, \$60 million for the mobility assistance program, \$50 million for localized bottlenecks projects, \$50 million for transit-supportive infrastructure, \$50 million for MassDOT IT-related expenditures, and \$20 million for the Complete Streets Program. In 114 outside sections the Governor's bill takes on lease of air rights over land owned by MassDOT in connection with the turnpike and the Boston extension portion of the metropolitan highway system, definitions related to public-private agreements, contracts for design-build-finance-operate-maintain or design-build-operate-maintain services, telecommutation tax credit, alternative delivery methods for public construction projects, the powers and duties of the MBTA, provisions authorizing short, medium and long-term notes and bonds, and a number of technical corrections. For greater detail, please review our Outside Section By Section Summary.

HB4285 (HD4736) - An Act making appropriations for the fiscal year 2020 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects

Sponsor

Governor

Summary

Submits the Governor's recommendations for an additional \$74.2 million in spending for fiscal year 2020, at a net state cost of \$68.1 million; included in the supplemental appropriations are \$12,300,000 for the safety net provider trust fund, \$5,000,000 for the early college program, \$4,200,000 for testing of potential Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) contamination of water supplies and their treatment, and a one-time MBTA resource assistance transfer in the amount of \$18,000,000.

HB4397 - An Act authorizing and accelerating transportation investment

Sponsor

Joint Committee on Transportation

Summary

Appropriates \$17.8 billion for various transportation needs, including bond authorizations for \$13.32 billion (anticipating \$4.48 billion in federal highway funding); further makes changes to distributions to RTAs, MBTA contracting and personnel, road safety, and the maturities of past transportation bonds. [Click here to view our section by section summary.](#)

HB4505 - An Act authorizing and accelerating transportation investment

Sponsor

House Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets

Summary

Appropriates \$18.04 billion for various transportation needs, including bond authorizations for \$13.56 billion (anticipating \$4.48 billion in federal highway funding); further makes changes to distributions to RTAs, MBTA contracting and personnel, road safety, and the maturities of past transportation bonds. [Click here to view our section by section summary of the previous draft, HB4397.](#) Because an additional section, Section 7, was added in the new draft, sections 8 through 33 of HB4505 are equivalent to sections 7 to 32 of HB4397. Other than changes as noted and updated section references, the outside sections are identical. (New draft of HB4397: \$240 million in additional funding was added along with a number of additional earmarks. A further provision allows MassDOT to set speed limits in active construction zones without conducting an engineering study. MassDOT job order contracts are prohibited from including duties covered by collective bargaining agreements.)

HB4508 - An Act relative to transportation finance

Sponsor

House Committee on Ways & Means

Summary

Submits a 35 page, 30 section overhaul of transportation funding in the Commonwealth; raises revenue through a new 29 cents per gallon gas tax, a 33 cents per gallon tax on diesel, assessments on rides from Uber, Lyft and similar services (TNCs); expansion of the vehicle excise tax, and an increased corporate excise tax. Provides increased funding for rural transit, transit authorities, municipalities, and the taxicab industry; requires the Commonwealth Transportation Fund to transfer at least \$10,000,000 for rural transit assistance; creates a new Transit Authority Fund to support the MBTA and RTAs with revenue generated by assessments on TNCs; establishes a Transportation Infrastructure Enhancement Trust Fund to address the impact of TNC services on cities and towns;

provides \$6,000,000 in support for the taxicab industry. Further regulates TNCs and personal vehicle sharing companies; requires TNCs to submit detailed ride information to regulators, provide clear cost estimates to consumers, and not increase prices during declared emergencies; requires personal vehicle sharing companies to ensure that shared vehicles comply with safety and emissions requirements, provide accurate pricing information to consumers, and provide decals identifying shared vehicles.Establishes commissions to study the feasibility of both congestion pricing in the Boston area and East-West rail.Click to view our section-by-section summary.

HB4511 (HD4908) - An Act to expand opportunities for minority and women business enterprises in public construction projects

Sponsor

Governor

Summary

Amends GL 7C:6 (Capital Asset Management and Maintenance) by adding findings to justify affirmative action for hiring minority and women-owned businesses, redefining "capital facility project" to include those DCAAM declares to be such projects, directing DCAAM commissioner to adjust participation goals for minority and women-owned businesses in appropriate circumstances, making each state agency responsible for affirmative marketing program, limiting provisions of filed sub-bid law to projects with a value of \$5 million or more and allowing other ways for sub-bid law to be met; amends GL 149:44F to increase threshold for applicability of filed sub-bid law; amends GL 149A:8 to allow trade contractors to subcontract work in order to meet participation goals for iminority and women-owned businesses.

HB4529 (HD4917) - An Act enabling partnerships for growth

Sponsor

Governor

Summary

General summary in progress. Please review our section-by-section summary.

HB4530 - An Act relative to transportation finance

Sponsor

House Committee on Bills in the Third Reading

Summary

Submits a 35 page, 30 section overhaul of transportation funding in the Commonwealth; raises revenue through a new 29 cents per gallon gas tax, a 33 cents per gallon tax on diesel, assessments on rides from Uber, Lyft and similar services (TNCs); expansion of the vehicle excise tax, and an increased corporate excise tax.Provides increased funding for rural transit, transit authorities,

municipalities, and the taxicab industry; requires the Commonwealth Transportation Fund to transfer at least \$10,000,000 for rural transit assistance; creates a new Transit Authority Fund to support the MBTA and RTAs with revenue generated by assessments on TNCs; establishes a Transportation Infrastructure Enhancement Trust Fund to address the impact of TNC services on cities and towns; provides \$6,000,000 in support for the taxicab industry. Further regulates TNCs and personal vehicle sharing companies; requires TNCs to submit detailed ride information to regulators, provide clear cost estimates to consumers, and not increase prices during declared emergencies; requires personal vehicle sharing companies to ensure that shared vehicles comply with safety and emissions requirements, provide accurate pricing information to consumers, and provide decals identifying shared vehicles. Establishes commissions to study the feasibility of both congestion pricing in the Boston area and East-West rail. Click to view the section-by-section summary of HB4508. (Printed as amended version of HB4508. The new language is largely the same, but adds several new sections, including those that increase amounts allocated for rural transit assistance, require personal vehicle sharing companies to provide adequate insurance for shared vehicles, address notice from shared vehicle companies to individuals sharing their vehicles regarding vehicle liens, regulate shared vehicle agreements and regulate motor vehicle insurance coverage for shared vehicles.)

HB4553 - An Act relative to greenhouse gas emissions standards for municipal lighting plants, for the purpose of promoting the Commonwealth's goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions while acknowledging and preserving the statutory scheme of chapter 164 which places municipal lighting plant operations, finances, and rates under local control

Sponsor

Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy

Summary

Enacts a new section into GL 25A (Department of Energy Resources) establishing non-carbon emitting energy standards for municipal light plants; defines 'non-carbon emitting' broadly, listing sources including landfill methane, anaerobic digestion, and biomass, and including any power source with half or less of the greenhouse gas emissions of a state-of-the-art natural gas facility as well as any determined by DOER to be non-carbon emitting; requires plants to file a demonstration of compliance with the department or else make an alternative compliance payment into a fund controlled by the plant, to fund emissions reductions. (New draft of HB2863. The new draft is identical to the original version.)

SB7 (SD2234) - An Act relative to improving safety on the roads of the Commonwealth

Sponsor

Governor

Summary

The Governor's road safety bill makes a variety of changes to the statute governing motor vehicles to address large truck safety, mobile electronic devices, seat belt usage; construction site speed limits, ignition interlocks, and electric scooters. Amends GL 90 (Motor Vehicles and Aircraft) to define several additional terms related to safety and different modes of transportation; excludes electric scooters from the definitions of motorized scooters and motor vehicles; requires vehicles class 3 or above and greater than 5 tons to be equipped with a lateral protective device, convex and cross-over mirrors if purchased or leased by the commonwealth; exempts several types of vehicles such as ambulances and snow plows, as determined by the registrar; directs the registrar to adopt regulations consistent with USDOT standards and to provide exemptions for alternative means of compliance; applies the new GL 90:7 requirements for protective equipment to contractors of the commonwealth two years after the effective date for vehicle owned or leased by the commonwealth; establishes a fee schedule and grounds for the termination of contractors for failure to comply with said requirements. Amends GL 90:7B (Equipment and Operation of School Buses) to allow for the use of phones or electronic devices by bus operators where the safety of passengers, road users, or pedestrians is threatened; amends GL 90:8M (Use of Electronic Device by Person Under 18 Years of Age While Operating Motor Vehicle) to allow for the use of phones or electronic devices by motor vehicle operators where the safety of road users or pedestrians is threatened; Amends GL 90:12A (Use of Mobile Electronic devices by Operators of Public Transportation) to establish a violation as a surchargeable incident; establishes that use of a mobile device by a public transportation operator in cases where police intervention is needed to protect pedestrians or other road users is not such a violation; amends GL 90:13A (Seat Belt Use Required) to allow law enforcement to stop motorists for the failure to use a seat belt on its own; amends GL 90:13B (Composing, Sending, and Reading of Electronic Messages While Operating a Motor Vehicle) to prohibit the use of electronic devices except in hands-free mode; prohibits composing messages, accessing social media, using video functions, watching non-navigational videos, inputting information, or manually using a GPS or navigation device; allows the usage of single-touch displays for navigational purposes; creates a presumptive violation if the mobile device is held near the head, in the hand, or on the lap of the operator; applies the fee schedule in GL 90:13B to violations of GL 90:8M, governing underage drivers; resets said fee schedule 6 years after the first offense; establishes violations of GLs 90:8M and 90:13B as surchargeable offenses; requires repeat offenders under GL 90:13B to complete a driving behavior course selected by the Registrar; specifies that such violations do not authorize the seizure of the device; creates an affirmative defense to such violations if evidence can be produced that such use was for emergency purposes and no other passenger could have used the device; exempts public safety personnel and first responders when using electronic devices in the course of their duties; Establishes a new GL 90:17½ authorizing the the Department of Transportation to establish speed limits in active construction zones and to impose double fines for violating such limits; directs the department to post signage to that effect; amends GL 90:24 and GL 90:24D to require the use of an ignition interlock for all persons granted a hardship license, and for those who do not seek or are not granted such a license, for six months after the reinstatement of their license or right to operate; amends GL 90:24D (Probation of Persons Convicted of Driving Under the Influence) to quadruple the length of time a license is suspended; establishes a new GL:24D½ making annual the registrar's public awareness campaign regarding mobile electronic device use while driving; directs the registry to promulgate regulations defining mobile electronic devices; directs the Department of Transportation to establish a working group to study electric scooters and micro-mobility devices and deliver a report to the governor and legislature by December 31, 2020.

SB79 (SD2203) - An Act promoting sustainable development across the Commonwealth

Sponsor

Sen. Nicholas P. Collins (D)

Summary

Establishes a new GL 21P (Climate Risk and Fiscal Responsibility) that requires all applications for a permit, authorization, certification, approval, grant, loan, or other financing under any executive office secretary or the supreme judicial court, to include disclosures related to relevant climate risks; includes environmental impact reports issued for all public works; requires the disclosure to include information about the model or projections used in making the risk assessment. Directs the secretary of the executive office of energy and environmental affairs, in consultation with the executive office of public safety and security and other related agencies, a climate projections database for uniform application across all such applications. Requires all applicants for state grants, loans or other funding, including funding for development, construction and capital infrastructure tax credits, as well as any requests for proposals for state capital projects, to include adaptation measures that mitigate climate risks that will occur over the life of the project or term of financing; requires particular disclosure of risks that disproportionately burden low and moderate income and minority populations; prohibits adaptation measures from avoiding additional disparate impacts in these areas; exempts the listed projects from disclosing adaptation measures. Requires DPU to instruct investor-owned electric power, natural gas, steam distribution, and water companies to identify in priority order the climate risks to its facilities and their plans to mitigate them; directs the board of building regulations and standards to undertake a one year study of the feasibility, impacts and economics of changing the state building code to require that buildings be designed, sited and constructed to address and protect against climate risks; requires EOEEA to establish, conduct, and maintain annual training programs for local planning boards, zoning boards, and commissions on climate science and the physical effects of climate change; requires members of these local boards and commissions to attend the training once every two years.

SB94 (SD120) - An Act to promote livable communities and zoning reform

Sponsor

Sen. Marc R. Pacheco (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. In particular, 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.

SB96 (SD609) - An Act improving housing opportunities and the Massachusetts economy

Sponsor

Sen. Michael J. Rodrigues (D)

Summary

This technical and complicated bill, running to 18 sections and 15 printed pages, makes a number of changes in the law relative to zoning, especially with respect to special permits. These changes include, among others, provisions establishing that zoning ordinances or by-laws may not require, as a condition precedent to the approval of a cluster development, the submission of a plan related to subdivision compliance; that zoning ordinances must classify accessory dwelling units as a use permitted by right in all single-family residential zoning districts, and these ordinances or by-laws may not unreasonably regulate the location, dimensions, or design of an accessory dwelling unit; establishes that special permits are to run with the land and are not personal to the applicant or owner of the property; allows zoning variances if the literal enforcement of the provisions would result in a practical difficulty, and enumerates the factors to be weighed in making that decision; establishes new procedures for site plan reviews; establishes that no zoning decision may be based on the exaction of money or property from the applicant or landowner unless the decision contains explicit findings demonstrating that the exaction satisfies federal constitutional requirements; establishes that the concurring vote of a majority of planning board members in office will suffice to make a decision; requires municipalities to establish and update as necessary a list of approved outside consultants having the minimum qualifications in one or more fields in which the local permitting boards or commission reasonably expect to require outside help, among other things. (Please note that special permits generally authorize an exception to the zoning regulations from a list of acceptable alternative uses, and that by right development refers to projects that are permitted under their current zoning, are approved administratively and do not require public hearings or any legislative action by municipality.)

SB430 (SD845) - An Act relative to coastal resiliency projects

Sponsor

Sen. Joseph Boncore (D)

Summary

Exempts coastal resiliency projects from regulation under GL 131:40 (Wetlands Protection Act) for work in land subject to coastal storm flowage and provides that said projects shall otherwise be regulated as limited projects for work in other coastal wetland resource areas under said Act; authorizes the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs to establish a specific procedure for evaluation and review of the environmental impacts of coastal resiliency projects; defines such projects, structures and fill; authorizes the Department of Environmental Protection to regulate coastal resiliency projects as limited projects.

SB450 (SD549) - An Act relative to sustainable water conservation practices

Sponsor

Sen. Viriato (Vinny) DeMacedo (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.

SB460 (SD886) - An Act improving municipal water infrastructure**Sponsor**

Sen. James B. Eldridge (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; directs the Department of Environmental Protection to promulgate regulations requiring public water systems to enclose any wellheads drawn on.

SB479 (SD1126) - An Act conserving our natural resources**Sponsor**

Sen. Anne Gobi (D)

Summary

Prohibits a person from using, setting, placing or maintaining 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.

SB512 (SD1667) - An Act relative to the financing of dredging projects**Sponsor**

Sen. Patrick O'Connor (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.

SB515 (SD1671) - An Act relative to community preservation funds for coastal infrastructure

Sponsor

Sen. Patrick O'Connor (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.

SB786 (SD1869) - An Act to guarantee a tenant's first right of refusal

Sponsor

Sen. Brendan Crighton (D)

Summary

Establishes a municipal local option creating a right of first refusal for tenants associations prior to the sale or foreclosure of residential property occupied by tenants; requires property owners in municipalities that create a tenants right of first refusal, to provide notice to both the tenants and the municipality of an intended sale, and offer tenants associations made up of a sufficient renter percentage with the opportunity to purchase the property prior to entering into a sales agreement with a third party; regulates offers tendered by tenants associations; requires completion of any sales transaction between an owner and a tenants association within 160 days of completion of the purchase and sale agreement; exempts certain properties, including those subject to a government taking, those defined as publicly assisted housing, those in a hospital, skilled nursing facility or health facility, those in a nonprofit facility, public housing, academic student housing and small rental units where the owner also resides, from such rights of first refusal; establishes similar rights of first refusals for properties subject to short sale by a mortgagee to avoid foreclosure and foreclosures; bans evicting tenants to avoid granting tenants the initial right to purchase.

SB788 (SD2106) - An Act promoting accessory dwelling units as a housing option

Sponsor

Sen. Julian A. Cyr (D)

Summary

Amends GL 40A:3 relative to subjects which zoning may not regulate, to establish that no zoning ordinance or by-law can prohibit (or require a special permit for) the use of land or structures for an accessory dwelling unit located internally within a single-family dwelling or the rental thereof on a lot not less than 5,000 square feet (or on a lot of sufficient area to meet Title V requirements); however, zoning ordinances may subject such land or structures to reasonable regulations concerning dimensional setbacks, screening and the bulk and height of structures. Moreover, the zoning ordinance or by-law may require that the principal dwelling or the accessory dwelling unit be continuously owner-occupied, and may limit the total number of accessory dwelling units in the municipality to not less than 5% of the total non-seasonal single-family housing units in the municipality, among other things.

SB913 (SD625) - An Act to ensure right to counsel in eviction proceedings

Sponsor

Sen. Sal N. DiDomenico (D)

Summary

Grants lessees and renters a right to counsel when served with a notice to quit a rental property under summary process (eviction proceedings) or under eviction proceedings due to using the premises for a common nuisance (prostitution, assignation, lewdness, illegal gaming, or the illegal keeping or sale of alcoholic beverages); requires appointment of counsel for indigent occupants who cannot afford an attorney; defines occupants as a person who inhabits or is entitled to inhabit a rental dwelling unit; defines individuals who are indigent and therefore entitled to appointment of an attorney, including those receiving public assistance under aid to dependent families with children, elder care, veterans benefits, Medicaid or food stamps; directs the committee for public counsel services to establish a system for appointment of counsel in eviction proceedings; establishes and regulates the membership and operation of a public task force for implementing the right to counsel in eviction proceedings.

SB930 (SD2105) - An Act relative to statutes of repose

Sponsor

Sen. Diana DiZoglio (D)

Summary

Amends GL 260:2B to extend the statute of repose for liability related to real property improvements from six to ten years; makes such changes and any future changes retroactive.

SB1189 (SD1638) - An Act to improve the local infrastructure development program

Sponsor

Sen. Adam G. Hinds (D)

Summary

Amends various provisions related to the operation of the local infrastructure development program (GL 23L); reduces the percentage of property owners who must sign a petition to establish a development zone from all persons owning property within the proposed boundaries to owners of either 51 percent of land area or assessed value; requires public hearings held within 120 days after receiving a petition to establish a development zone to include information on infrastructure rate assessments, including – including the rate, method of apportionment, and manner of collection; requires the information to be sufficiently detailed so real estate owners can estimate their maximum costs; requires any municipal resolutions that create a development zone to provide for their expiration in 35 years; authorizes the assessing party to exempt residential dwellings at or below 100 percent of median area income from assessments; regulates amendments to and abolition of such development zones; requires petitions seeking amendment or abolition to contain signatures by owners of at least 51 percent of land area or assessed value.

SB1191 (SD1378) - An Act relative to transit-oriented development

Sponsor

Sen. John F. Keenan (D)

Summary

Adds new Section 3A to GL 40A (Zoning) to require zoning ordinances and by-laws to provide for the development of multi-family housing, of right, which may include business, commercial or mixed uses in a district within a quarter of a mile of a commuter rail station or public transportation ferry terminal; requires said housing to be (i) without age restrictions, (ii) suitable for families with children, (iii) have a minimum gross density of 14 units per acre and (iv) align, to the extent possible with existing or planned water, sewer and transportation infrastructure; authorizes the Department of Housing and Community Development to waive or reduce these requirements; further directs the Department to promulgate regulation necessary to implement these provisions.

SB1216 (SD774) - An Act to promote healthy communities and the environment

Sponsor

Sen. Sonia R. Chang-Diaz (D)

Summary

Inserts a new and unnamed Chapter 111P into the General Laws. The bill provides for an expedited and enhanced Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Review for projects located within 1 mile of a

designated 'most vulnerable' community, or in the case of projects exceeding certain thresholds, within 5 miles of a most vulnerable community; it exempts site assessment grants and loans granted under the Brownfields Redevelopment Fund from triggering the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act review; and it establishes a community environmental health and economic disparities program; it requires the creation and maintenance of a Communities Health Index, among other things.

SB1293 (SD916) - An Act to promote public health through the prevention and wellness trust fund

Sponsor

Sen. Jason M. Lewis (D)

Summary

Amends the Prevention and Wellness Trust enacted in GL 111:2G to expand the purposes of the Trust to include (1) increased access to community-based preventive services and interventions which complement and expand the ability of MassHealth to promote coordinated care, integrate community-based services with clinical care, and develop innovative ways of addressing social determinants of health; (2) reducing the impact of health conditions which are the largest drivers of poor health, health disparities, reduced quality of life, and high health care costs through community-based interventions; and (3) developing a stronger evidence-base of effective prevention interventions. In addition the bill expands the Prevention and Wellness Advisory Board by adding one additional person, and by making the requirements for sitting on the Board as an appointee more explicit. The Board is also charged with the programs of the Trust according to nine enumerated criteria. Finally, imposes an additional surcharge on acute hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers, which is to be added to all payments already subject to surcharge. This amount is to be equal the product of (i) the prevention wellness surcharge percentage and (ii) amounts paid for these services by a surcharge payer. The Medicaid Office is to calculate the prevention and cost control surcharge percentage by dividing \$33,000,000 by the projected annual aggregate payments subject to the surcharge, excluding projected annual aggregate payments based on payments made by managed care organizations. (The intent is for the surcharge to produce between \$23 and \$43 million; if it does not, it may be recalculated.)

SB1324 (SD1758) - An Act establishing a special commission to find the best practices to promote education, awareness, and prevention of Lyme disease

Sponsor

Sen. Patrick O'Connor (R)

Summary

Establishes a 7-member special commission to study Lyme disease prevention and the potential for a statewide prevention program; specifies the qualifications of the members of the commission; directs the commission to report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature by July 1, 2020.

SB1392 (SD1303) - An Act relative to public safety in excavation

Sponsor

Sen. Brendan Crighton (D)

Summary

Amends provisions relative to excavations under GL 82; classifies municipal signal traffic departments as companies subject to excavation laws; requires professional land surveyors, as defined, to premark any proposed excavation for a new facility or renovation; requires premarkings for underground facilities projects to, when possible, indicate a width greater than 2 inches, the material of the underground facility, the existence of any ducts and a change in direction; permits the department of public utilities to assign companies who fail to comply with excavation requirement to complete 'Dig Safe' training in lieu of paying a fine for a first offense

SB1396 (SD557) - An Act establishing the building code coordinating council

Sponsor

Sen. Diana DiZoglio (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.

SB1645 (SD860) - An Act mitigating water resource impacts

Sponsor

Sen. James B. Eldridge (D)

Summary

Establishes a new GL 40:39N, allowing cities, towns, water or wastewater districts, stormwater utilities or other authority to collect reasonable fees for the exclusive use for remedying and offsetting the 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; requires cities and towns imposing such fees to designate a board, commission or official responsible for the collection; requires the deposit of the fees in separate accounts classified as 'Sustainable Water Resource Funds' for drinking water, wastewater or stormwater.

SB1667 (SD965) - An Act establishing a local option gasoline and diesel fuel excise

Sponsor

Sen. Anne Gobi (D)

Summary

Requires all retail suppliers who sell fuels or special fuels to retail dealers of motor fuel and automotive lubricating oil, including service stations, garages, and other retail establishments, to provide the listed information to the commissioner of revenue every month, including the name and address of the retail dealers, the number of gallons sold, the price, and other requested information. NOTE: This bill refers to a definition of retail suppliers in GL 64A:1, which does not exist. The term is defined within this piece of legislation in Section 2. Establishes a new GL 64O, which allows cities and towns to impose a local excise tax on the sale of gasoline and special fuels by retailers within their limits; limits the tax amount to up to 5 cents a gallon; requires payment of the tax to the commissioner of revenue, for subsequent distribution to cities and towns that elect to impose the tax; requires cities and towns that impose the tax to establish a municipal fuel excise transportation and stormwater fund, for the deposit of tax proceeds; limits the use of monies in the fund to the maintenance, repair, upkeep, construction or improvement of roads, bridges, sidewalks, bikeways or public parking areas, public transit purposes, or costs associated with stormwater management.

SB1694 (SD1008) - An Act relative to regional transportation ballot initiatives

Sponsor

Sen. Eric Lesser (D)

Summary

Enacts a new Chapter 64N, entitled 'An Act Relative to Regional Transportation Ballot Initiatives,' into the General Laws. In particular, the new chapter would authorize a municipality (or a district formed from two or more municipalities) to impose a tax surcharge on one of four taxes from a list including payroll, sales, property, or vehicle excise tax, to be used for transportation-related purposes only. The Chapter then establishes the process for acceptance of the surcharge in a municipality or district; establishes the regulations governing the collection of the surcharge; establishes the regulations for governing the committee; and establishes the powers and duties of the committee; also establishes a Massachusetts Local and Regional Transportation Trust Fund, for the exclusive benefit of municipalities or districts accepting this Act; requires the Commonwealth to annually disburse from this fund an amount not to exceed the total surcharge collected in each municipality or district that has accepted this Act; authorizes the municipality to reduce or make changes in the amount of the surcharge or the amount of exemptions in the same manner as it were accepted; authorizes a municipality to revoke the surcharge after 5 years in the same manner as it was accepted; directs the Commissioner of Revenue to promulgate rules and regulations implementing these provisions. Finally, establishes a Massachusetts Local and Regional Transportation Trust Fund, to consist of all revenues received by the Commonwealth from the tax surcharge, from public and private sources as gifts, grants and donations, and all other monies credited to or transferred to from any other fund or source pursuant to law. Please note that this bill is substantially similar to SB1551 of the 2017-18 legislative

cycle, but that there are many differences in specific language and in some of the particular requirements.

SB1701 (SD39) - An Act to eliminate the tax deduction for direct-to-consumer pharmaceutical marketing

Sponsor

Sen. Jason M. Lewis (D)

Summary

Amends GL 63:1, the statute governing definitions relative to taxation of corporations, to prohibit direct consumer advertising of prescription drugs from being deducted from net income.

SB1718 (SD807) - An Act clarifying occupancy excise and internet hotel room resellers

Sponsor

Sen. Mark C. Montigny (D)

Summary

Amends GL 64G:5 (Separate statement and charge of amount of room occupancy excise) to establish that the excise will apply to whatever dollar amount is held out to the occupant as the cost of the rent, including any included charges or fees, except those that are separately itemized from the rent.

SB1763 (SD1958) - An Act relative to clarifying property tax exemptions for solar and wind systems

Sponsor

Sen. Michael J. Rodrigues (D)

Summary

Amends GL 59:5 (Property Tax Exemptions) to limit the existing statutory exemption for solar and wind powered systems to 125% of the annual energy needs of the real property upon which it is located; limits the exemption to 20 years, or longer with a specific exemption from the municipality; requires the owner of such system/property to make payments in lieu of taxes for any additional energy generation, and to execute an agreement for such payments with the municipality where the system is located; amends GL 59:38H (Transition Payments to Municipalities in which an Affiliated Generation Facility is Located) to exclude solar or wind generation facilities from coverage; directs the department of revenue, in consultation with the department of energy resources, to solicit public input and issue guidance on the valuation and assessment of taxes on solar and wind facilities which

product more than 125% of the energy needed by their location property; allows existing agreements for payments in lieu of taxes to remain in effect without renegotiation.

SB1797 (SD1276) - An Act providing for science and technology policy fellows

Sponsor

Sen. Bruce E. Tarr (R)

Summary

Establishes a Science and Technology Policy Fellowship with the legislature to be provided by the Engineering Center Education Trust.

SB1799 (SD1821) - An Act further regulating certain light frame residential construction

Sponsor

Sen. Michael D. Brady (D)

Summary

Directs the state board of building regulations and standards to regulate light frame residential construction for residential use structures containing two or more dwelling or sleeping units; regulates the installation of various fire safety measures, including automatic sprinkler systems, fire petitions, fire walls and horizontal assemblies between floors; requires registration of contractors and subcontractors on residential projects involving light frame construction; requires the presence of a fire watch warden on such construction projects 24 hours a day; regulates fire watch warden eligibility, training and duties; directs the director of housing and community development to implement rules and regulations requiring the use of emblems indicating the presence of light frame or truss construction, and that the site is identified as a fire hazard; regulates the content of such emblems.

SB1884 (SD48) - An Act to promote safety, efficiency and accountability in transportation projects through public inspections

Sponsor

Sen. Michael O. Moore (D)

Summary

Requires that public employees carry out the construction inspection functions for all surface transportation projects receiving state or federal funding; defines construction inspection functions and public employee.

SB1889 (SD485) - An Act establishing a special commission to study the feasibility of incorporating conductive concrete in future public works projects

Sponsor

Sen. Patrick O'Connor (R)

Summary

Establishes a special commission to study the feasibility of integrating the use of conductive concrete in all public works developments and projects; directs the UMass School of Engineering to conduct a study to determine the cost, feasibility, effectiveness and projected costs savings of such use; defines conductive concrete; requires the commission to submit its recommendations to the legislature by December 1, 2020.

SB1893 (SD154) - An Act relative to protecting the taxpayers of the Commonwealth

Sponsor

Sen. Marc R. Pacheco (D)

Summary

Subjects all contracts for design, engineering and inspection services to provisions regulating the hiring of private contractors by public and governmental entities.

SB1902 (SD693) - An Act further defining fraud in public construction contracts

Sponsor

Sen. Michael J. Rodrigues (D)

Summary

Amends GL 30:39M (Awarding of Public Construction Contracts) to clarify that contractors sign under penalties of perjury that the bid is made without collusion with any other person or entity or fraud; defines fraud.

SB1906 (SD1682) - An Act establishing a commission on government accountability, economy, and efficiency

Sponsor

Sen. Michael F. Rush (D)

Summary

Establishes an 18 member Special Commission on Government Accountability, Economy and Efficiency to study ways to improve these aspects of state government; specifies several particular areas of investigation for the Commission; requires the Commission to submit its final report to the legislature by June 30 2021.

SB1909 (SD237) - An Act justifying the use of project labor agreements

Sponsor

Sen. Bruce E. Tarr (R)

Summary

Establishes that an awarding authority electing to require a project labor agreement must, within 60 days, submit a report to the Inspector General stating that the project is of such size, duration, timing and complexity that a project labor agreement is required; and providing a comparative analysis of any benefits of the project labor agreement that led the awarding authority to conclude that such an agreement was required, and any increased costs or adverse impacts caused by the agreement.

SB1924 (SD1817) - An Act to combat climate change

Sponsor

Sen. Michael Barrett (D)

Summary

Amends numerous provisions of the Climate Protection and Green Economy Act (GL 21N); defines a greenhouse gas-emitting priority as any matter, including natural gas, petroleum, coal or liquid and solid fuels, which produces greenhouse gasses when burned; amends the definition of market based compliance mechanism under the act to include any form of price compliance imposed on greenhouse gas emitting sources or priorities in order to meet state greenhouse gas limits; defines rural municipalities as those in which residents drive more than 130% of the statewide average of miles driven per household. Establishes a new GL 21N:7A requiring the secretary of energy and environmental affairs to establish a market based compliance mechanism for the transportation sector, the commercial, industrial and institutional sectors and the residential building sector; requires efforts aimed that the transportation sector to focus on reducing passenger and light duty truck emissions; regulates the disbursement of amounts collected under the plan; requires the plan to maximize reduction in greenhouse emissions in order to meet established limits; requires the plan to establish a cost of emissions per metric ton of carbon dioxide equivalent of not less than 15 dollars in its initial year, with incremental annual increases of 5 dollars per year up to 60 dollars; requires the secretary to take reasonable efforts to implement any charges, exactions, allowances or permits at the earliest point in the supply chain. Establishes and regulates both a carbon pricing trust fund and an environmental health and justice trust fund; regulates the allocation of monies collected from the newly created market based compliance mechanisms to the funds, and their subsequent use for the commonwealth transportation fund, school aid under Chapter 70, rebates under the Massachusetts Offers Rebates for Electric Vehicles program, and assisting communities with significant

pollution.Requires implementation of compliance mechanisms for the transportation sector by December 31, 2021, for the commercial, industrial and institutional sectors by December 31, 2022 and for the residential building sector by December 31, 2023.

SB1925 (SD1979) - An Act to encourage the deployment of heat pumps

Sponsor

Sen. Michael Barrett (D)

Summary

Directs the Department of Energy Resources to publish, by July 31, 2020, numerical data on the current statewide utilization of: (1) heat pumps for space heating and cooling installed in residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and government buildings; (2) heat pump water heaters in said buildings; and (3) any other economically feasible technology that serves to electrify major heating and cooling end-uses; requires said data to include estimates of current adoption across Massachusetts residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and government buildings as well as estimates of energy, natural gas, and fuel consumption reductions attributable to the statewide adoption of each technology; further directs the Department to, on or before December 31, 2020, adopt numerical targets, to be achieved by December 31, 2030, for statewide increases in the utilization of each technology named above, with the objective of maximizing the utilization within the Commonwealth of non-fossil fuel means of heating and cooling buildings; requires the Department to submit a report on policies most likely to result in the achievement of these targets to the legislature; directs the Board of Building Regulations and Standards, in consultation with the Department to include requirements that all new construction be built to accommodate the installation of a heat pump system and heat pump hot water heater as amendments to the state building and electric code; establishes criteria for exemptions; defines heat pump and heat pump water heater.

SB1935 (SD2212) - An Act establishing a net zero stretch energy code

Sponsor

Sen. Joanne Comerford (D)

Summary

Adds new §10A to GL c.25A (Division of Energy Resources) requiring the Board of Building Regulations (in consultation with the Department of Energy Resources) to establish a definition for 'net zero buildings' which must be designed to ensure that the building is highly energy efficient with all remaining electrical and thermal energy needed for the building supplied by renewable sources generated onsite or through approved, offsite locations; the definition must be used to update the current Stretch Energy Code in Appendix 115AA of the Massachusetts building energy code.The must further require the development of a tiered implementation plan for the adoption of a net zero building code, including making accommodation for the needs of environmental justice communities (as defined in Executive Order 552) and consideration of the prioritization of regional renewable energy generation.

SB1940 (SD1953) - An Act for utility transition to using renewable energy (FUTURE)

Sponsor

Sen. Cynthia Stone Creem (D)

Summary

Over 32 pages, submits modifications to GL 21N (climate protection and green economy act), GL 25 (department of public utilities, GL 25A (division of energy resources), GL 164 (manufacture and sale of gas and electricity), for the purpose of implementing additional safety and responses to gas leaks, expansion of the piping of renewable thermal energy in place of natural gas and expanding participation of towns, legislators and communities to in DPU pipeline operations. Specifically, the bill expands the definition of grade 2 leaks and requires their repair within 6 months; regulates the prioritization and repair of grade 3 leaks; requires specific scheduling of repairs for leaks in school zones; requires disclosure of leak information to municipalities and local public safety professionals; requires surveys of pipelines in school zones at least once every 12 months; imposes liability for tree root damage caused by gas line maintenance or repair; imposes standards for winter surveillance of gas lines. Additionally, the bill allows gas utilities to pipe renewable thermal energy to homes and replace gas infrastructure renewable thermal pipes; imposes a fee on gas bills to fund renewable energy projects; requires gas companies to add more renewable thermal infrastructure, for the purpose of transitioning away from gas; prohibits billing of new fossil fuel infrastructure for ratepayers beyond 2050. Establishes and regulates the membership and operation of the clean energy transition commission to make recommendations to the governor and the general court for legislation, regulations and to facilitate transition from fossil fuel energy to energy derived from clean, renewable sources for the purpose of achieving a 100% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below the 1990 level by 2050.

SB1941 (SD1246) - An Act authorizing resiliency measures under commercial property assessed clean energy

Sponsor

Sen. Brendan Crighton (D)

Summary

Amends GL 23M:1 (Commercial Property Assessed Clean Property - Definitions), by including participation in a qualified district heating and cooling system, in a qualified microgrid that incorporates clean energy, or in an energy storage system in the definition of commercial energy improvements under the program.

SB1958 (SD1625) - An Act transitioning Massachusetts to 100 per cent renewable energy

Sponsor

Sen. James B. Eldridge (D)

Summary

Establishes a new GL 25D, the 100 Percent Renewable Energy Act; establishes a goal of having 100% of the energy needs of the commonwealth met with renewable energy by 2045; establishes a further goal of 100% renewable energy for consumption by residents, institutions, businesses, state and municipal agencies, and other entities by 2035; directs the secretary of energy and environmental affairs to establish an administrative council for the clean energy transition within 90 days of passage; regulates the membership and operation of the council; establishes a clean energy center of excellence at a public institution of higher education to conduct and sponsor research on renewable energy technologies, practices and barriers; establishes and regulates the membership and operation of a council for clean energy workforce development; directs state agencies, including the department of energy resources, the division of capital asset management and maintenance, the department of transportation, to develop pathways to expand renewable energy sources, establish declining annual limits on the use of non-renewable energy and reach the 2045 goal of 100% renewable energy; requires municipal light plants to purchase 100 percent of their electricity from renewable energy sources by 2035; directs the department and the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, the executive office for administration and finance, the division of capital asset management and maintenance, and other state agencies to identify opportunities to expand solar and other renewable energy generation capacity on state property; amends provisions related to mandatory kilowatt hours sold to consumers derived from renewable energy sources.

SB1977 (SD1628) - An Act promoting clean energy storage

Sponsor

Sen. Adam G. Hinds (D)

Summary

Amends GL 59:5 (Property tax exemptions) to establish a new exemption for the cost of energy storage systems, at the sole discretion of a municipality. The exemption will be allowed for a period of twenty years from the date of the installation of such system or device. In addition, the Department of Energy Resources is required to establish a rebate for Massachusetts-based companies installing and manufacturing energy storage systems, and provides a sales tax exemption for the sale of energy storage systems. 'Energy storage system' is defined as a commercially available technology that is capable of absorbing energy, storing it for a period of time and thereafter dispatching the energy, and which may be owned by an electric distribution company. The definition is derived from SL 2016:188, which enacted GL c.23M (Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy).

SB1987 (SD1710) - An Act to expand the green communities program to mitigate climate change

Sponsor

Sen. Jason M. Lewis (D)

Summary

Amends GL 25A:10 (Division of Green Communities) to add (i) deployment of energy storage, microgrids or district energy systems connected to renewable energy generation; (ii) installation of zero-emissions vehicles, charging equipment or infrastructure, or related technologies; and (iii) coordination of residential or small business clean energy outreach, technical assistance or financing programs to the purposes for which grants and loans to municipalities may be made from the green communities program; establishes a new green plus community category; sets forth eligibility criteria to receive such a designation; increases the annual funding for the program from \$20,000,000 to \$40,000,000; provides that not less than \$10,000,000 of said funding go to green plus communities.

SB2001 (SD161) - An Act relative to solar siting

Sponsor

Sen. Marc R. Pacheco (D)

Summary

Amends GL 25A:11F (renewable energy portfolio standard for retail electricity suppliers), by requiring consideration of environmental impact; directs any renewable energy generating facility with a nameplate capacity greater than 100 KW or increased capacity of greater than 100KW, to meet appropriate and site-specific standards that avoid and minimize impacts on soils, habitat, and water quality; includes mitigation and enhancement measures determined by the department of energy resources and relevant state and federal environment and natural resource agencies.

SB2005 (SD757) - An Act to secure a clean energy future

Sponsor

Sen. Marc R. Pacheco (D)

Summary

Comprising 72 sections on 49 printed pages, the bill is intended to both promote the green energy industries and reduce the Commonwealth's participation in the production of greenhouse gases, this bill makes a variety of proposals as well as amendments to existing General Law with the general intent of reducing carbon-based emissions and promoting clean energy, with a special emphasis on consideration for minority and underserved populations. These proposals including requiring that 50% of the state vehicle fleet be zero emission vehicles by June 30, 2025; prohibiting any hydraulic fracturing from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2029; requiring the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs to adopt permanent 2030 statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit, and provisional limits for 2040 and 21050; requiring the Secretary to promulgate regulations establishing market-based compliance mechanisms for the transportation sector, the commercial, industrial and institutional sectors, and the residential building sector; and prohibiting any unit of state and local government from promulgating a regulatory scheme that has the effect of discriminating against a person within the meaning of the MCAD enabling statute. The bill also establishes definitions for environmental justice, environmental justice population, and environmental justice household that targets people that have experienced a disproportionate environmental impact since Jan, 1, 1998, or where the annual median household income is equal to or less than 110% or in which minorities comprise 25% or more of the population, and which meet certain other contingencies. The bill requires the Division of Energy Resources to establish an energy storage system target for the deployment of energy storage systems by distribution company customers, distribution companies and municipal

lighting plants to achieve a statewide energy storage deployment target of 2,000 megawatts by January 1, 2030. With respect to solar energy the bill strikes out the aggregate net metering cap of 7% of a distribution company's peak load; establishes that any facility which is at least 75% owned by (or at least 75% of which is producing net metering credits for) 3 or more individual residential customers, may accrue Class I net metering credits, if certain other triggers are met. Requires that there be at least 1 air monitoring station within a 1-mile radius of a working natural gas compressor station to collect data and verify compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards; authorizes municipalities to enter into community empowerment contracts relative to renewable energy projects on behalf of the customers within the municipality. Finally, the bill requires the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to develop and implement a program to promote private electric vehicle ownership with the goal of ensuring that 25% of vehicles be electric vehicles by December 31, 2030.

SB2007 (SD1247) - An Act relative to local energy investment and infrastructure modernization

Sponsor

Sen. Marc R. Pacheco (D)

Summary

Submits various recommendations for improvements to the availability and distribution of electricity in the commonwealth, with a focus on grid integration of local energy resource alternatives. The first section establishes a new GL 164:146, directing the department of public utilities to establish procedures for development and submission of grid modernization plans by electric distribution companies; requires the procedures to include metrics and performance incentives to evaluate the progress of the distribution companies, including their ability to utilize and integrate local energy resources; defines local energy resources as local, distributed renewable generation facilities, as well as local plans for energy efficiency, energy storage, electric vehicles, demand response and load management; mandates inclusion of protections for low income consumers. This section directs electric distribution companies to prepare and submit grid modernization plans every five years; includes costs, benefits and ideal locations of local energy resources in the plans, as well as other considerations in effectively encouraging and implementing their use. Finally, this initial proposal establishes and regulates the membership and operation of the grid modernization consumer board; charges the board with responsibility for maximizing net economic benefits through the use of distributed energy resources and achieving goals related to electric transmission and reliability, as well as climate and environmental goals. The second section establishes a new GL 164:69J 1/2, which prohibits the construction of any infrastructure resource facility without approval of a determination of wires; requires the application to include an analysis for the need for the facility, other alternative methods for meeting the need, and a 3rd party report detailing the availability of local energy resource alternatives; requires the board to determine whether local energy resource alternative could meet all or part of the proposed need. Requires the department of energy resources to establish a framework for benefit-cost analyses to be applied to evaluations of Infrastructure Resource Facilities and Local Energy Resource Alternatives within 3 months, and to establish criteria for methods for securing contracts for local energy resource alternatives within 10 months. Amends GL 164:69J relating to petitions for approval of construction of electric generation facilities, by requiring the approval of a determination of wires established above and by requiring a discussion of greenhouse gas emissions in the petition. Requires all electric distribution companies to allow customers to opt-into time of use rates, and to provide necessary equipment within 60 days; imposes a one year rate protection for consumers electing such rates, and the right to select a different rate after a year.

SB2010 (SD2217) - An Act to expand offshore wind development in the Commonwealth

Sponsor

Sen. Marc R. Pacheco (D)

Summary

Directs the department of energy resources to investigate the necessity, benefits and costs of requiring distribution companies to jointly and competitively conduct additional offshore wind generation solicitations and procurements of up to approximately 2,800 megawatts of aggregate nameplate capacity, in addition to that already required; further instructs the department to require additional solicitations and procurements by December 31, 2035; allows the department to require solicitations and procurements from designated wind energy areas for which a federal lease was issued on or after January 1, 2012; additionally authorizes availability of such transmission service by more than one wind energy generation project.

SB2060 (SD1037) - An Act relative to tolls on the roadways of the Commonwealth

Sponsor

Sen. Brendan Crighton (D)

Summary

Amends GL 6C:3 relating to the powers of the department of transportation; prohibits the department from increasing tolls charged on the metropolitan highway system and the Massachusetts Turnpike from the rates in places on January 1, 2017; repeals provisions requiring tolls collected pay for the cost of owning, maintaining and operating the system, and payment of any notes or bonds due to pay such costs; directs the Department of Transportation to conduct a study on the feasibility of establishing all-electronic tolling along state and interstate highways not currently subject to a toll; regulates the components of the study, including feasibility, obtaining a federal waiver, reaching interstate or regional agreements for placement of additional tolls, and the ability to place border tolls with changes in Federal law; requires submission of the report by December 31, 2017.

SB2063 (SD1214) - An Act to reduce traffic and encourage shared rides

Sponsor

Sen. Brendan Crighton (D)

Summary

Repeals provisions requiring so-called transportation network companies, or companies that use digital networks to connect drivers and riders for transportation (ride-sharing companies, ie: Uber,

Lyft) to submit monthly reports detailing complaints alleging criminal behavior filed by drivers and riders; instead requires such companies to annually report the number of rides from the previous calendar year that originated in each city or town and the amount collected from rider-assessments; establishes rider assessment amounts, and reduces the assessments for passengers who request to share the ride with one or more passengers. Amends GL 159A 1/2 (transportation network companies) by regulating pooled and shared rides; defines pooled rides as those in which passengers separately request to share the ride with one or more others ahead of time; requires ride sharing companies to provide clear and conspicuous fare estimates to all passengers at all times, including during surge pricing; requires the fare estimates to demonstrate cost differences between a shared ride and a single occupancy ride. Allows the municipalities included in the "14 cities and towns" of the original MTA system (Arlington, Belmont, Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Medford, Milton, Newton, Revere, Somerville and Watertown) to impose an additional congestion assessment of \$2.25 on ride shares during regular MBTA hours; requires the use of such funds for municipal investment in public transportation, bicycle and pedestrian investments, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure; prohibits other entities other than the Massachusetts Port Authority from imposing taxes or requiring additional licenses on transportation network companies or drivers.

SB2083 (SD2135) - An Act establishing transit improvement districts

Sponsor

Sen. Cindy Friedman (D)

Summary

Establishes a new GL 40X, regulating the establishment, operation and dissolution of transit improvement districts; defines transit improvement districts (TID) as specified areas in one or more municipalities, consisting of one or more parcels of land used for the implementation of transit improvement programs. Requires participating communities to develop program plans, including financial details such as anticipated indebtedness, sources of anticipated capital, and cost estimates across the listed cost types, duration of the program, administration, management and operational plans, expected partners and how the TID will fill transportation gaps; allows municipalities or groups to hold public meetings in each of the participating municipalities prior to adoption; requires acceptance of the TID by a majority vote of the appropriate legislative authority in participating municipalities and a vote of property owners within the TID. Authorizes and regulates the creation and collection of a transit improvement fee on owners of residential dwellings with up to 3 residential units, small commercial properties up to 5,000 square feet, and agricultural properties; requires participating municipalities to independently fund at least 20 percent of the TID costs; directs the department of transportation to identify and allocate funds to assist municipalities in establishing a transit improvement district; requires use of at least 30 percent of the funds for assisting municipalities with an average household income below that of the state.

SB2110 (SD373) - An Act to establish a Massachusetts Transportation Endowment Fund (MTEF)

Sponsor

Sen. Jason M. Lewis (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.Filed by request of Vincent Lawrence Dixon of Winchester.

SB2114 (SD870) - An Act to explore alternative funding sources to ensure safe and reliable transportation

Sponsor

Sen. Jason M. Lewis (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.

SB2477 - An Act setting next-generation climate policy

Sponsor

Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Summary

Submits a comprehensive 32-page, 61-section climate policy bill, consisting of various recommendations to address climate change in the commonwealth; highlights include: net-neutral greenhouse gas emissions standards by 2050, with 5 year incrementally stringent standards between 2020 and 2050, sublimits for various sectors, including transportation, construction, residential and commercial buildings and others, changes to the state board of building regulations and standards, inclusion of social value of greenhouse gas emissions reductions in evaluation of energy efficiency programs and implementation of marketplace compliance mechanisms. For additional details, view our section by section summary.

SB2500 - An Act setting next-generation climate policy

Sponsor

Printed As Amended

Summary

