

HOUSE No. 4237

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
, MA

KARYN POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

February 13, 2018

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives,

I am filing for your consideration a bill entitled “An Act Financing Improvements to Municipal Roads and Bridges.”

This bill authorizes the Commonwealth to borrow \$200 million to fund improvements to municipally-owned roads and bridges through Chapter 90 grants. These grants reach each of our 351 cities and towns directly, continuing the strong tradition of partnership between the Commonwealth and local communities. Prompt passage of this legislation will ensure that the Commonwealth’s roads and bridges can continue on their path to a state of good repair. Accordingly, I urge you to enact this legislation promptly.

In addition, in accordance with Section 3 of Article LXII of the Amendments to the Constitution, I am including here and in the bill my recommendation for the terms of the bonds to be issued thereunder, namely that the term of bonds that the State Treasurer is authorized to issue pursuant to Section 3 of the bill shall be a maximum term of years not exceeding 30 years from the date of issuance thereof; provided, however, that all such bonds shall be payable not later than June 30, 2053.

Respectfully submitted

Charles D. Baker,
Governor

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act financing improvements to municipal roads and bridges.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to finance improvements to the commonwealth’s transportation system, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. To provide for a program of transportation development and improvements,
2 the sums set forth in section 2 for the purposes and subject to the conditions specified in this act,
3 are hereby made available, subject to the laws regulating the disbursement of public funds. The
4 sums made available in this act shall be in addition to any amounts previously appropriated or
5 made available for these purposes.

6 SECTION 2.

7 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

8 Highway Division

9 6122-1824. For the construction and reconstruction of municipal ways as described in
10 clause (b) of the second paragraph of section 4 of chapter 6C of the General Laws; provided, that

11 a city or town shall comply with the procedures established by the Massachusetts Department of
12 Transportation; provided further, that a city or town may expend, without further appropriation,
13 for these projects amounts not in excess of the amount provided to the city or town under this
14 item upon preliminary notice of such amount, which shall be provided by the department to the
15 city or town not later than March 1 of each year; and provided further, that the commonwealth
16 shall reimburse a city or town under this item, subject to the availability of funds as provided in
17 section 9G of chapter 29 of the General Laws, within 30 days after receipt by the department of a
18 request for reimbursement from the city or town, which request shall include certification by the
19 city or town that actual expenses have been incurred on projects eligible for reimbursement
20 under this item and that the work has been completed to the satisfaction of the city or town
21 according to the specifications of the project and in compliance with applicable laws and
22 procedures established by the department..... \$200,000,000

23 SECTION 3. To meet the expenditures necessary in carrying out section 2, the state
24 treasurer shall, upon request of the governor, issue and sell bonds of the commonwealth in an
25 amount to be specified by the governor from time to time but not exceeding, in the aggregate,
26 \$200,000,000. All bonds issued by the commonwealth as aforesaid shall be designated on their
27 face, Municipal Ways Act of 2018, and shall be issued for a maximum term of years, not
28 exceeding 30 years, as recommended by the governor in a message to the general court dated
29 February 13, 2018 under section 3 of Article LXII of the Amendments to the Constitution. All
30 such bonds shall be payable not later than June 30, 2053, pursuant to said Section 3 of Article
31 LXII of the Amendments to the Constitution. All interest and payments on account of principal
32 on these obligations shall be payable from the General Fund. Notwithstanding any other general

- 33 or special law to the contrary, bonds issued under this section and interest thereon shall be
- 34 general obligations of the commonwealth.