

SENATE No. 523

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Marc R. Pacheco

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act providing funding for clean energy and energy efficiency measures for the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Marc R. Pacheco</i>	<i>First Plymouth and Bristol</i>	
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>	<i>4/24/2019</i>

SENATE No. 523

By Mr. Pacheco, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 523) of Marc R. Pacheco and James B. Eldridge for legislation to provide funding for clean energy and energy efficiency measures for the Commonwealth. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 476 OF 2017-2018.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)

An Act providing funding for clean energy and energy efficiency measures for the Commonwealth.

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 an energy efficiency and clean energy program in public
2 school buildings in the Commonwealth, the sum set forth in section 7 for the several purposes
3 and subject to the conditions specified in this act, are hereby made available, subject to the laws
4 regulating the disbursement of public funds, which is in addition to amounts previously
5 appropriated for these purposes.

6 SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS.

7 The following terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly
8 requires otherwise:

9 “Administration and Finance”, the Executive Office for Administration and Finance.

10 “the Authority”, The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA).

11 “bonds”, energy efficiency and renewable energy bonds.

12 “clean energy”, energy efficiency and renewable energy.

13 “Department”, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

14 "energy efficiency measure", a modification or improvement to a building or complex of

15 buildings that is designed to reduce energy consumption or operating costs or that provides a

16 renewable energy source and may include:

17 (1) insulation of the building structure or systems within the building;

18 (2) storm windows or doors, caulking or weather-stripping, multi-glazed windows or

19 doors, heat-absorbing or heat-reflective glazed and coated window or door systems, additional

20 glazing, reductions in glass area or other window and door system modifications that reduce

21 energy consumption;

22 (3) automated or computerized energy lighting and control systems;

23 (4) heating, ventilating or air conditioning system modifications or replacements;

24 (5) replacement or modification of lighting fixtures to increase the energy efficiency of

25 the lighting system;

26 (6) energy recovery systems;

27 (7) on-site photovoltaics, solar heating and cooling systems or other renewable energy
28 systems;

29 (8) low flow plumbing fixtures and other water conservation devices; or

30 (9) thermal energy systems that qualify for Alternative Energy Credits under Chapter 251
31 of the Acts of 2014

32 "the Fund", the energy efficiency and renewable energy bonding fund.

33 "school district", a political subdivision of the state established for the administration of
34 public schools, segregated geographically for taxation and bonding purposes.

35 "school district building", a building, the title to which is held by a school district.

36 "Secretary", the secretary of energy and environmental affairs.

37 "the Plan", the clean energy plan to be developed and implemented by the agencies
38 specified herein.

39 SECTION 3. STATE PLAN FOR CLEAN ENERGY AND COST SAVINGS IN
40 PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

41 A. The Department shall develop and begin implementing, no later than July 1, 2018, a
42 state plan for the installation of clean energy measures in school district buildings. The plan shall
43 include the maximum amount of on-site renewable energy measures possible while retaining the
44 overall revenue-neutral status of the plan, such that the total cost of the plan is covered entirely
45 by the combined energy cost savings of both the renewable energy and other energy efficiency
46 measures undertaken. In addition, the plan shall include a schedule for funding and installing the

47 energy efficiency measures that gives priority to those projects that will realize significant
48 energy cost savings in the shortest time frame.

49 B. The Department shall develop the plan in conjunction with the Executive Office for
50 Administration and Finance, the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), and other
51 state agencies with control and management over public school buildings.

52 C. State agencies and school districts shall cooperate with the department in the
53 development and implementation of the plan.

54 SECTION 4. CONTRACTS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF CLEAN ENERGY
55 MEASURES.

56 A. The Plan shall specify that contracts under this Act for the installation of energy
57 efficiency measures at one or more of the school district buildings shall address provisions
58 concerning payment schedules, monitoring, inspecting, measuring and warranties as are
59 necessary to ensure that the energy efficiency measures will be installed and the energy cost
60 savings realized in the manner most beneficial to the state.

61 B. Contracts shall not be let nor bonds be issued pursuant to this Act without a finding by
62 the department or its designee that the energy cost savings realized from the contracts will be
63 equal to or greater than the debt service due on the bonds issued to finance the contracts.

64 SECTION 5. BONDING FUND AND REVENUE NEUTRALITY

65 A. The Plan shall specify a bonding system similar to the existing Commonwealth Clean
66 Energy Investment Program.

67 B. The Plan shall insure that expenditures under this Act are revenue neutral. That is,
68 energy-cost savings produced by action taken pursuant to this Act shall cover the cost of that
69 action.

70 SECTION 6. CALCULATION OF COST SAVINGS—SOME IMMEDIATE SAVINGS
71 TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS

72 A. Upon the installation of clean energy measures in a school district building, the
73 Authority shall calculate the estimated energy cost savings, in the form of lower utility payments
74 by the school district that will be annually realized as a result of said installation. The Authority
75 shall certify the estimate to Administration and Finance and any other state agency with
76 jurisdiction, and to the school district.

77 B. When calculating the state funding distribution, the responsible agency shall deduct
78 ninety percent of the amount certified for the school district by the Authority.

79 C. Reduction of a school district's state funding distribution shall cease when the school
80 district's cumulative reductions equal its proportional share of the cumulative debt service
81 payments necessary to service the bonds issued pursuant to this Act.

82 D. Prior to June 30 of each year, the total amount deducted for all school districts
83 pursuant to Subsection B of this section shall be transferred to the Fund.

84 SECTION 7. CLEAN ENERGY BONDS AUTHORIZED

85 A. Administration and Finance is authorized to issue and sell from time to time revenue
86 bonds, known as "clean energy bonds", in an amount outstanding at any one time not to exceed
87 fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000), payable solely from the fund, in compliance with this Act and

88 other applicable law for the purpose of installing clean energy measures when the Authority has
89 certified the need for the bonds and the conditions of Subsection C of this section have been
90 satisfied.

91 B. The net proceeds from the bonds are appropriated to the Authority for the purpose of
92 making payments for the installation of clean energy measures pursuant to this Act.

93 C. Bonds shall not be issued pursuant to this section unless:

94 (1) the Authority has committed to install or has entered into one or more contracts
95 pursuant to Section 4 of this Act for the installation of clean energy measures and the resulting
96 energy cost savings will be realized within a reasonable time;

97 (2) considering the timeliness and amount of energy cost savings estimated to be realized
98 from the clean energy measures, the Authority has certified the approximate date when the
99 energy cost savings are most likely to equal or exceed the debt service due on the bonds to be
100 issued to fund the energy efficiency measures;

101 (3) the life of clean energy measures meets or exceeds the life of the bonds allocable to
102 those clean energy measures as determined by the Authority;

103 SECTION 8. BONDS TAX EXEMPT.

104 All clean energy bonds shall be exempt from taxation by the state or any of its political
105 subdivisions.

106 SECTION 9. ANNUAL REPORT REQUIRED.

107 No later than December 1 of each year, the Authority shall report to the General Court
108 and to the governor on its activities during the previous fiscal year in administering the
109 provisions of this Act. The report shall include:

110 A. details concerning all payments made for the installation of energy efficiency
111 measures;

112 B. details concerning all expenditures made in administering the provisions of the Clean
113 Energy for Schools Bonding Act;

114 C. a list of all buildings in which energy efficiency measures were installed;

115 D. details showing how the energy cost savings were calculated;

116 E. an analysis of whether the program has been cost-effective;

117 F. a report showing progress made in complying with the state plan developed pursuant
118 to Section 3 of the Clean Energy for Schools Bonding Act and, if in noncompliance, a plan for
119 achieving compliance in the future;

120 G. a summary of activities being conducted during the present fiscal year; and

121 H. any additional information that will assist the General Court and the governor in
122 evaluating the program.