

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4849**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Daniel Cahill*

*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 to amend the state contract law relating to provisions in state procurement contracts involving the use of low embodied carbon concrete.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Daniel Cahill</i>	<i>10th Essex</i>	<i>3/11/2022</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4849**

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By Mr. Cahill of Lynn, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Daniel Cahill for legislation to further regulate provisions in state procurement contracts involving the use of low embodied carbon concrete. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court  
(2021-2022)**

An Act to amend the state contract law relating to provisions in state procurement contracts involving the use of low embodied carbon concrete.

*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. For the purposes of this act, the following terms shall have the following  
2 meaning:

3 (i) "concrete" shall mean structural and non-structural masonry, precast and ready  
4 mixed concrete building and construction materials.

5 (ii) "concrete mix" shall mean a specific combination of components including water,  
6 cement aggregate and other materials which are used to produce concrete products

7 (iii) "Environmental product declaration" (EPD) shall mean product specific Type III  
8 EPDs that conform to ISO Standard 14025 and enable the numeric GWP and environmental  
9 impact comparisons between concrete mixes fulfilling the same functions.

10 (iv) "Global warming potential" (GWP) shall mean a numeric value that measures the  
11 total contribution to global warming from the emission of greenhouse gases, or the elimination of

12 greenhouse gas sinks, provided that results from the production and/or utilization outside  
13 Massachusetts shall be prohibited from inclusion in Lower carbon concrete green procurement  
14 specifications.

15 (v) “low embodied carbon concrete” shall mean concrete that has been verified to  
16 embody lower carbon emissions compared to the baseline embodied carbon emissions of  
17 conventional concrete.

18 (vi) “Low carbon concrete producer incentives” shall mean financial inducements  
19 offered to private concrete manufacturers and/or contractors to encourage the incorporation of  
20 lower carbon concrete materials and methods in concrete products procured by state agencies.  
21 Producer incentives include but are not limited to i.) bid discounts applied to offeror prices for  
22 concrete materials included in proposals for state projects, and ii. monetary performance bonuses  
23 that are awarded to concrete manufacturers that produce and deliver concrete products for state  
24 projects that have been verified to attain exceptionally low levels of embodied carbon.

25 (vii) “lower carbon emissions” shall be defined by the Division of Capital Asset  
26 Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) with input from the stakeholder advisory group  
27 established in Section 2, subsection A 3(a) of this bill.

28 (viii) "Performance based specification" shall mean a contract provision that requires  
29 that a structural material achieve specified performance outcomes from the use of the structural  
30 material, including, but not limited to, outcomes related to the strength, durability, permeability,  
31 or other attributes related to the function of the building material for applied uses, as opposed to  
32 requiring that a structural material be produced using a specific prescribed manufacturing  
33 process, design features, technologies, or proportions of constituent materials.

34 SECTION 2. State contract law is amended in Massachusetts Building Code CMR 780,  
35 Chapter 81 and Chapter 90 by adding a new section

36 Section \_\_\_A to read as follows:

37 Subsection A. Contracts involving low embodied carbon concrete.

38 1. Any state or local contract for low embodied carbon concrete shall include provisions  
39 regarding contractor, subcontractor and worker product certification as follows:

40 (a) contractors and subcontractors doing work involving low embodied carbon concrete  
41 shall certify that all work completed or utilized on projects meets the minimum standards  
42 established under this section by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance  
43 (DCAMM)

44 2. Any certifications required by this section shall be kept current for the duration of all  
45 contracts. The Contractor shall issue periodic test reports to the Division from a laboratory  
46 certified to evaluate low embodied carbon concrete. The Contractor shall report any changes to  
47 the Division.

48 3. (a) the office of the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance, in  
49 consultation with the Department of Energy Resources, shall establish guidelines requiring the  
50 procurement of low embodied carbon concrete on projects deemed appropriate by such office.  
51 Such guidelines shall implement a process with minimum standards for contractors and  
52 subcontractors to file with the contracting agency upon completion of a project. When  
53 establishing guidelines related to low embodied carbon concrete, the office of the Division of  
54 Capital Asset Management and Maintenance shall consider industry standards. The Division, in

55 conjunction with the Department of Energy Resources shall establish a stakeholder advisory  
56 group appointed by the commissioner of the Division of Capital Asset Management and  
57 Maintenance consisting of: (i) two licensed professional engineers; (ii) two licensed registered  
58 architects; (iii) two representatives of the construction industry; (iv) two representatives of the  
59 concrete testing and validation industry; (v) two representatives of an accredited school of civil  
60 engineering; (vi) one representative from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC);  
61 and (vii) one representative each from the executive office of transportation, the executive office  
62 of housing and community development, the department of energy resources, and the department  
63 of environmental protection.

64 (b) the office of the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance shall  
65 consult with any relevant associations that set industry standards for the procurement of low  
66 embodied carbon concrete and shall consult with affected contractors and subcontractors to  
67 consider environmental impact as well as the impact on public health and safety.

68 (d) the office of the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance shall create  
69 a licensure process and establish a fee schedule for certification of low embodied carbon  
70 concrete.

71 4. The office of the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance shall also  
72 examine i. the use of incentives, including bid credits and performance bonuses to encourage the  
73 usage and innovation of low embodied carbon concrete on state agency projects; ii. the  
74 application of performance-based specification standards for concrete procured by state agencies;  
75 iii. the implementation of expedited Department of Transportation (DOT) evaluation, testing and  
76 approval protocols for lower carbon concrete materials and methods; iv. the implementation of

77 mandatory maximum global warming potential thresholds for concrete procured by state  
78 agencies; the utilization of environmental product declarations and/or other methodologies and  
79 tools that quantify the climate and environmental impact of materials, including but not limited  
80 to global warming potential.

81           5. In addition, the office of the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance  
82 shall also examine the use of implementing standards for performance based specification,  
83 including but not limited to requirements that a structural material achieve specified performance  
84 based outcomes from the use of the structural material, including but not limited to, outcomes  
85 related to strength, durability, permeability or other attributes related to the function of the  
86 building material for applied uses, as opposed to requiring that a structural material be produced  
87 using a specified manufacturer process, design features, technologies, or proportion of materials.  
88 The office of the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance shall examine the use  
89 of methods of compliance, including, but not limited to, maximum cement content specifications  
90 and specifications based on maximum potential to impact for global warming.

91           6. The commissioner of the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance in  
92 consultation with the Department of Transportation and the stakeholder advisory group  
93 established in subdivision three of this section, shall examine the use of an expedited product  
94 evaluation protocol for low embodied carbon concrete products.

95           7. The guidelines established pursuant to this section as well as any recommendations for  
96 subsequent legislative action resulting from examining the use of incentives related to bid credits  
97 shall be submitted to the governor, the president of the senate, the speaker of the House, the  
98 Transportation Committee and the Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy, the

99 Housing Committee and the Committees on Ways and Means within thirty days of the issuance  
100 of such guidelines or within one year from the effective date of this section, whichever may  
101 come sooner.

102 SECTION 3. Whereas, the deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose,  
103 which is to establish standards for low embodied carbon contracts to assist to combat climate  
104 change, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate  
105 preservation of the public convenience.