

HOUSE No. 3546

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 20, 2023.

The committee on Transportation, to whom was referred the message from Her Excellency the Governor recommending legislation relative to financing improvements to municipal roads and bridges (House, No. 52), reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 3546) ought to pass.

For the committee,

WILLIAM M. STRAUS.

HOUSE No. 3546

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

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
2 improvements, the sum set forth in section 2 for the several purposes and subject to the
3 conditions specified in this act, is hereby made available, subject to the laws regulating the
4 disbursement of public funds. The sum made available in this act shall be in addition to any
5 amounts previously appropriated or made available for these purposes.

6 SECTION 2.

7 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

8 *Highway Division*

9 6122-2127. 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. Item 6121-2157 of section 2A of chapter 383 of the acts of 2020, as
24 amended by section 3 of chapter 89 of the acts of 2022, is hereby further amended by striking out
25 the figure “\$140,000,000” and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- \$165,000,000.

26 SECTION 4. Item 6121-2118 of section 2B of said chapter 383, as most recently
27 amended by section 4 of chapter 89 of the acts of 2022, is hereby further amended by striking out
28 the figure “\$125,000,000” and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- \$150,000,000.

29 SECTION 5. Item 6121-2138 of said section 2B of said chapter 383, as amended by
30 section 5 of chapter 89 of the acts of 2022, is hereby amended by striking out the figure
31 “\$80,000,000” and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- \$105,000,000.

32 SECTION 6. Item 6921-2111 of section 2I of said chapter 383, as most recently
33 amended by section 6 of chapter 89 of the acts of 2022, is hereby further amended by striking out
34 the figure “\$75,000,000” and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- \$100,000,000.

35 SECTION 7. Item 6921-2112 of said section 2I of said chapter 383, as most recently
36 amended by section 7 of chapter 89 of the acts of 2022, is hereby further amended by striking out
37 the figure “\$75,000,000” and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- \$100,000,000.

38 SECTION 8. Item 6921-2114 of said section 2I of said chapter 383, as amended by
39 section 8 of chapter 25 of the acts of 2021, is hereby further amended by striking out the figure
40 “\$50,000,000” and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- 75,000,000.

41 SECTION 9. Section 33 of said chapter 383, as most recently amended by section 8 of
42 chapter 89 of the acts of 2022, is hereby further amended by striking out the figure
43 “\$2,145,000,000” and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- \$2,220,000,000.

44 SECTION 10. Section 40 of said chapter 383, as most recently amended by section 9 of
45 chapter 89 of the acts of 2022, is hereby further amended by striking out the figure
46 “\$2,315,698,500” and inserting in place thereof the following figure:- \$2,390,698,500.

47 SECTION 11. To meet the expenditures necessary in carrying out section 2, the state
48 treasurer shall, upon request of the governor, issue and sell bonds of the commonwealth in an
49 amount to be specified by the governor from time to time but not exceeding, in the aggregate,
50 \$200,000,000. All bonds issued by the commonwealth as aforesaid shall be designated on their
51 face, Commonwealth Transportation Improvement Act of 2023, and shall be issued for a
52 maximum term of years, not exceeding 30 years, as the governor may recommend to the general
53 court under section 3 of Article LXII of the Amendments to the Constitution. All such bonds

54 shall be payable not later than June 30, 2058, pursuant to said section 3 of said Article LXII. All
55 interest and payments on account of principal on these obligations shall be payable from the
56 General Fund. Notwithstanding any other general or special law to the contrary, bonds issued
57 under this section and interest thereon shall be general obligations of the Commonwealth.