

HOUSE No. 765

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Michelle L. Ciccolo

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 establish a grant and loan program for low noise, low emissions landscape maintenance equipment.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Michelle L. Ciccolo</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/18/2023</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>11/14/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 765

By Representative Ciccolo of Lexington, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 765) of Michelle L. Ciccolo for legislation to establish a grant and loan program for small businesses and municipalities to transition landscape maintenance equipment to low noise, low emissions equipment. Environment and Natural Resources.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to establish a grant and loan program for low noise, low emissions landscape maintenance equipment.

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

1 Chapter 21A of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:

2 Section 29. (a) There shall be within the executive office of energy and environmental
3 affairs a grant and loan program to provide incentive funds to small businesses and
4 municipalities to transition landscape maintenance equipment to low noise, low emissions
5 equipment.

6 (b) To be eligible for a grant, small businesses and municipalities shall surrender gas-
7 powered landscape maintenance equipment for a one-for-one replacement with low-noise, low-
8 emissions equipment.

9 (c) Grant and loan funds awarded pursuant to subsection (a) may be used for:

10 (1) purchasing electric landscape maintenance equipment;

11 (2) training landscaping staff on the use and care of electric landscape maintenance
12 equipment;

13 (3) operational costs that may be accrued through the transition from gas-powered
14 landscape maintenance equipment to electric landscape maintenance equipment; and

15 (4) any other cost associated with the transition from gas-powered landscape maintenance
16 equipment to electric landscape maintenance equipment, as determined by the secretary.

17 (e) Loans awarded pursuant to subsection (a) shall carry 0 percent interest.

18 (f)(1) There is hereby established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a
19 separate fund to be known as the Low Noise, Low Emissions Landscape Maintenance
20 Equipment Trust Fund, in this section called the fund. The comptroller shall transfer to the fund
21 an amount no greater than \$2,000,000 from the Federal COVID-19 Response Fund established in
22 section 2JJJJ of chapter 29 for grants and loans to provide incentive funds to small businesses
23 and municipalities to transition landscape maintenance equipment to low noise, low emissions
24 equipment, and any other federal reimbursements, grants, premiums, gifts, interest, or other
25 contributions from any source received that are specifically designated to be credited to the fund.
26 The secretary shall be the trustee of the fund and may expend amounts from the fund without
27 further appropriation.

28 (2) Amounts credited to the fund shall not be subject to further appropriation and money
29 remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund and shall be
30 available for expenditure in the subsequent fiscal year.

31 (3) The secretary shall report annually, on or before August 1, to the house and senate
32 committees on ways and means and the senate and house chairs of the joint committee on
33 environment, natural resources, and agriculture regarding expenditure activity within the trust
34 fund.