

SENATE No. 2682

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

SENATE, March 11, 2024.

The committee on Public Health, to whom was referred the petitions (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1382) of Patricia D. Jehlen, Vanna Howard, Sal N. DiDomenico, Rebecca L. Rausch and other members of the General Court for legislation to improve outdoor and indoor air quality for communities burdened by transportation pollution; and (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2131) of Christine P. Barber, Mike Connolly and others for legislation to improve outdoor and indoor air quality for communities burdened by pollution, report the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 2682).

For the committee,
Julian Cyr

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An Act to improve outdoor and indoor air quality for communities burdened by pollution..

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. The department of environmental protection, in consultation with the
2 executive office of energy and environmental affairs and bureau of environmental health, shall
3 convene a technical advisory committee that shall consist of not less than 9 individuals, at least 1
4 of whom shall represent residents of environmental justice populations, as determined by the
5 Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, impacted by air pollution
6 living adjacent to a major highway, at least 1 of whom shall represent academics with expertise
7 in air monitoring, environmental health, air toxics and air pollution and at least 1 of whom shall
8 represent organized labor. The committee shall: (i) identify communities with high cumulative
9 exposure burdens for toxic air contaminants and criteria pollutants, including “ultrafine particles”
10 as defined by the Environmental Protection Agency; (ii) identify the likely air pollution hotspots
11 and corridors due to high concentrations of traffic-related air pollution throughout the
12 commonwealth that should be equipped with new or expanded air monitors; and (iii) establish
13 definitions for “air quality” and “air quality target pollutants” that shall include, but not be
14 limited to, consideration of criteria pollutants, black carbon and ultrafine particulate matter.

15 Not later than June 30, 2025, the department of environmental protection shall install and
16 operate air monitors in not less than 8 air pollution hotspots or corridors that measure at least 1 of
17 each of the following pollutants: (i) black carbon; (ii) nitrogen oxides; and (iii) ultrafine
18 particulate matter. Not later than December 31, 2026, the department of environmental
19 protection shall establish baseline air quality in air pollution hotspots and corridors. Data from
20 the air monitors shall be publicly accessible and provide near-time information. The department
21 of environmental protection shall work with residents from environmental justice populations to
22 conduct participatory action research where residents can use mobile air sensors to expand the
23 number of locations where residents can track air quality.

24 The department shall convene the technical advisory committee by December 1, 2025.

25 The department of environmental protection shall file a report of the technical advisory
26 committee's findings, including the baseline air quality levels and recommendations to reduce air
27 pollution in those identified locations by 50 per cent below the baseline by December 31, 2030,
28 with the clerks of the senate and house of representatives, the joint committee on public health
29 and the joint committee on environment, energy and natural resources not later than June 30,
30 2026.