

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2885**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

—  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**  
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SENATE, July 22, 2024.

The committee on Senate Ways and Means to whom was referred the Senate Bill establishing a special commission to review the adequacy and equity of the Massachusetts school building program (Senate, No. 2659), - reports, recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 2885).

For the committee,  
Michael J. Rodrigues

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act establishing a special commission to review the adequacy and equity of the Massachusetts school building program.

*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. (a) For the purposes of this section, the word “authority” shall mean the  
2   Massachusetts School Building Authority established in section 1A of chapter 70B of the  
3   General Laws.

4           (b) There shall be a special commission to study and make recommendations regarding  
5   the: (i) capacity of the authority to meet the needs of current and future school facility projects;  
6   and (ii) racial, ethnic, socioeconomic and geographic equity of the grant funding formula to  
7   ensure that all communities may participate in the maintenance assessment program established  
8   pursuant to section 16 of chapter 70B of the General Laws.

9           (c) The commission shall consist of: the chairs of the joint committee on education, who  
10   shall serve as co-chairs; 1 member to be appointed by the senate president; 1 member to be  
11   appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; 1 member to be appointed by the  
12   minority leader of the senate; 1 member to be appointed by the minority leader of the house of  
13   representatives; the secretary of education or a designee; the commissioner of elementary and

14 secondary education or a designee; the executive director of the authority or a designee; 2  
15 members to be appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be a representative of a gateway city  
16 with knowledge of municipal finance and 1 of whom shall be an individual with demonstrated  
17 expertise in the design and construction of cost-effective school buildings; 2 members to be  
18 appointed by the state treasurer, 1 of whom shall be an individual with demonstrated expertise in  
19 the design and construction of green buildings and 1 of whom shall be an individual with  
20 demonstrated expertise in public health and indoor environmental quality in school buildings; 1  
21 member representing Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, Inc.; 1 member  
22 representing Massachusetts Association of School Committees, Inc.; 1 member representing  
23 Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators, Inc.; 1 member representing the  
24 Massachusetts chapters of the American Institute for Architects; 1 member representing  
25 Massachusetts Facilities Administrators Association, Inc.; 1 member representing the  
26 Massachusetts Teachers Association; 1 member representing the American Federation of  
27 Teachers, Massachusetts; 1 member representing Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation, Inc.; 1  
28 member representing Massachusetts Municipal Association, Inc.; and 1 member representing the  
29 Massachusetts Building Trades Council.

30 (d) The commission shall investigate and make recommendations on: (i) the current and  
31 future need to renovate and rebuild school facilities, availability of adequate state and local  
32 resources and extent to which current state funding for the authority may need to be adjusted to  
33 meet this need; (ii) the authority's existing grant formula and potential modifications to the  
34 formula to ensure fairness and equity for all communities; (iii) the alignment of the authority's  
35 construction cost reimbursement rate relative to the actual cost of construction and other  
36 authority policies that impact eligible project costs for reimbursement; (iv) incentive percentage

37 points, including, but not limited to, how incentive percentage points are calculated for  
38 municipalities that qualify for 80 per cent reimbursement; (v) reimbursement policies for  
39 regional technical and vocational schools and how to ensure affordability for all member  
40 communities; (vi) reimbursement policies to help the commonwealth achieve its environmental  
41 and greenhouse gas emissions reductions goals; (vii) reimbursement policies that support healthy  
42 school facilities for students and staff; (viii) whether the authority should be authorized to spend  
43 money on equipment or be limited to funding education structures; (ix) whether the authority  
44 should add incentives for educational spaces approved under chapter 74 of the General Laws in  
45 programs that align to labor market demand; (x) strategies for addressing facilities needs of  
46 educational collaboratives; and (xi) any other issues affecting the ability of all students to attend  
47 school in high quality, accessible, safe, healthy and green school buildings.

48 (e) The authority and other state agencies shall make available to the commission any  
49 documents, data or materials in a timely manner when reasonably requested by the commission.  
50 The authority shall provide staff to assist the commission in completing its obligations under this  
51 section.

52 (f) The commission shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the  
53 clerks of the senate and house of representatives, the joint committee on education and the senate  
54 and house committees on ways and means not later than June 1, 2026.