

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 4307

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, July 23, 2025.

The committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the Bill financing long-term improvements to municipal roads and bridges (House, No. 4257), reports recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment substituting therefor the accompanying bill (House, No. 4307) [Bond Issue: General Obligation Bonds: \$1,185,000,000.00]

For the committee,

AARON MICHLEWITZ.

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 4307**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
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*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.*

An Act financing long-term improvements to municipal roads and bridges.

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

6           SECTION 2.

7                           MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

8   *Highway Division*

9           6122-2627 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,

**CORRECTED**

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; provided further, that the commonwealth shall  
16 reimburse funds to a city or town under this item, subject to the availability of funds as provided  
17 in section 9G of chapter 29 of the General Laws, within 30 days after receipt by the department  
18 of a request for reimbursement from the city or town; provided further, that the department shall  
19 expend up to \$100,000,000 for construction and reconstruction of municipal ways, which shall  
20 be allocated to municipalities based on local road mileage under procedures established by the  
21 department; provided further, that the department shall encourage long-term capital plans to be  
22 developed by a city or town describing how they will use this funding; and provided further, that  
23 the city or town shall provide to the department its certification by the city or town that actual  
24 expenses have been incurred on projects eligible for funding under this item and that the work  
25 has been completed to the satisfaction of the city or town according to the specifications of the  
26 project plan, and in compliance with applicable laws and procedures established by the  
27 department..... \$300,000,000

28 SECTION 2A.

29 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

30 *Highway Division*

31 6121-2617 For the bridge and pavement lifecycle asset management program, including  
32 but not limited to, design, construction and repair of, or improvements to, non-federally aided  
33 roadway and bridge projects and for the nonparticipating portion of federally-aided projects, and  
34 for the construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, repair and improvement of pavement and

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35 surface conditions on non-federally aided roadways, including, but not limited to, state numbered  
36 routes and municipal roadways; provided, that expenditures from this item may include the costs  
37 of engineering, design, permitting, climate change adaptation and resilience and other services  
38 essential to projects under this item; provided further, that funds may be expended from this item  
39 for matching grants to municipalities related to repair of surface conditions on paved and  
40 unpaved public ways; provided further, that the department may use these funds for improving  
41 the condition of bicycle and pedestrian accommodations related to such roadway, bridge,  
42 pavement and resurfacing projects; and provided further, that the department shall consider  
43 lifecycle asset management and resilient design with respect to projects under this  
44 item..... \$500,000,000

45         6121-2627 For a program of culvert and small bridge modernization, reconstruction,  
46 removal, repair, replacement and resilience improvements to culverts and small bridges with a  
47 span of 20 feet or less under procedures established by the Massachusetts Department of  
48 Transportation in consultation with the secretary of energy and environmental affairs; provided,  
49 that expenditures from this item may include the costs of engineering, design, permitting, climate  
50 change adaptation and resilience and other services essential to projects under this item; and  
51 provided further, that funds may be expended from this item for matching grants to  
52 municipalities for municipally-owned small bridges and culverts ..... \$200,000,000

53         6121-2637 For a program of transportation capital projects to ease congestion and  
54 improve safety in the commonwealth; provided, that expenditures from this item may include  
55 intersection improvements, rail grade crossings, bicycle infrastructure and shared use paths,  
56 pedestrian walkways and improvements, accessibility improvements, traffic signals and  
57 technology, ADA compliant sidewalks and crossings, roadway reconstruction and repairs and

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58 other capital investments to alleviate road congestion and improve road, walking and biking  
59 conditions throughout the commonwealth..... \$185,000,000

60 SECTION 3. To meet the expenditures necessary in carrying out section 2, the state  
61 treasurer shall, upon request of the governor, issue and sell bonds of the commonwealth in an  
62 amount to be specified by the governor from time to time but not exceeding, in the aggregate,  
63 \$300,000,000. All bonds issued by the commonwealth as aforesaid shall be designated on their  
64 face, Commonwealth Transportation Improvement Act of 2025, and shall be issued for a  
65 maximum term of years, not exceeding 30 years, as the governor may recommend to the general  
66 court under section 3 of Article LXII of the Amendments to the Constitution. Notwithstanding  
67 section 14 of chapter 29 of the General Laws, all such bonds shall be payable not later than June  
68 30, 2065, pursuant to said section 3 of said Article LXII. All interest and payments on account of  
69 principal on these obligations shall be payable from the General Fund or the Commonwealth  
70 Transportation Fund.

71 SECTION 4. To meet the expenditures necessary in carrying out section 2A, the state  
72 treasurer shall, upon request of the governor, issue and sell bonds of the commonwealth in an  
73 amount to be specified by the governor from time to time but not exceeding, in the aggregate,  
74 \$885,000,000. All bonds issued by the commonwealth as aforesaid shall be designated on their  
75 face, Commonwealth Transportation Improvement Act of 2025, and shall be issued for a  
76 maximum term of years, not exceeding 30 years, as the governor may recommend to the general  
77 court under section 3 of Article LXII of the Amendments to the Constitution. Notwithstanding  
78 section 14 of chapter 29 of the General Laws, all such bonds shall be payable not later than June  
79 30, 2065, pursuant to said section 3 of said Article LXII. All interest and payments on account of

80 principal on these obligations shall be payable from the General Fund or the Commonwealth  
81 Transportation Fund.

82 SECTION 5. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, bonds and  
83 interest thereon issued under sections 2 and 2A shall be general obligations of the  
84 commonwealth; provided, however, that any bonds issued by the state treasurer under said  
85 sections, shall, upon the request of the governor, be issued as special obligation bonds pursuant  
86 to section 2O of chapter 29 of the General Laws; provided further, that in deciding whether to  
87 request the issuance of particular bonds as special obligations, the governor shall take into  
88 account: (i) generally prevailing financial market conditions; (ii) the impact of each approach on  
89 the overall capital financing plans and needs of the commonwealth; (iii) any ratings assigned to  
90 outstanding bonds of the commonwealth and any ratings expected to be assigned by any  
91 nationally-recognized credit rating agency to the bonds proposed to be issued; and (iv) any  
92 applicable provisions of a trust agreement or credit enhancement agreement entered into pursuant  
93 to said section 2O of said chapter 29. All interest and payments on account of obligations issued  
94 under this section as special obligation bonds pursuant to said section 2O of said chapter 29 shall  
95 be payable from the Commonwealth Transportation Fund, established in section 2ZZZ of said  
96 chapter 29, solely in accordance with said section 2O of said chapter 29, and such bonds shall  
97 not be included in the computation of outstanding bonds for purposes of the limit imposed by the  
98 second paragraph of section 60A of said chapter 29, nor shall debt service with respect to such  
99 bonds be included in the computation of the limit imposed by section 60B of said chapter 29.