

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 5431**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Carole A. Fiola***

*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 relative to firefighter staffing.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Carole A. Fiola</i>	<i>6th Bristol</i>	<i>4/6/2026</i>

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By Representative Fiola of Fall River, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Carole A. Fiola relative to firefighter staffing. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act relative to firefighter staffing.

*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. Chapter 22D of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the  
2 following section:-

3           Section 7. (a) There shall be within the department of fire services, but not under its  
4 control, a firefighter staffing coordinating council for the purposes of providing municipal  
5 staffing recommendations and administering the Firefighter Staffing Grant Fund established in  
6 section 2000000 of chapter 29. The council shall consist of 7 members: the secretary of  
7 public safety and security or a designee; the state fire marshal or a designee; and 5 members to  
8 be appointed by the governor, 2 of whom shall be members of the Fire Chief’s Association of  
9 Massachusetts, Inc., 2 of whom shall be members of the Professional Fire Fighters of  
10 Massachusetts and 1 of whom shall be a representative of the insurance industry. The governor  
11 shall appoint members for a term of 3 years and any such member shall be eligible for  
12 reappointment. A person shall not receive compensation for service as a member of the council.

13 (b) Every 4 years, the council shall conduct a comprehensive municipal firefighter  
14 staffing survey to inform awards granted under the Firefighter Staffing Grant Fund. The council  
15 shall administer the fund and shall promulgate regulations necessary for its implementation.

16 (c) The council shall establish an application process, including application forms,  
17 deadlines and submission requirements. The council shall accept applications on an annual basis,  
18 or more frequently as the council may determine.

19 SECTION 2. Chapter 29 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
20 section 2NNNNNN the following section:-

21 Section 2000000. (a) There is hereby established and set up on the books of the  
22 commonwealth a separate fund to be known as the Firefighter Staffing Grant Fund. The fund  
23 shall be administered by the firefighter staffing coordinating council, established in section 7 of  
24 chapter 22D, and shall be used exclusively to provide financial assistance to eligible  
25 municipalities to hire, retain and train firefighters to achieve staffing levels consistent with  
26 NFPA 1710 or, for volunteer and combination departments, NFPA 1720.

27 (b) The fund shall consist of: (i) appropriations or other money authorized by the general  
28 court and specifically designated to be credited to the fund; (ii) funds from federal, private or  
29 other sources received by the commonwealth for the purposes of firefighter staffing assistance;  
30 (iii) interest earned on money in the fund; and (iv) funds from any other source.

31 (c) Money in the fund shall be expended without further appropriation. Any unexpended  
32 balance in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund and shall be  
33 available for expenditure in subsequent fiscal years.

34           SECTION 3. Not later than 180 days after the effective date of this act, the firefighter  
35 staffing coordinating council, established in section 7 of chapter 22D of the General Laws, shall  
36 promulgate any regulations required by said section 7 of said chapter 22D.