

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

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Kathleen R. LaNatra***

*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 establishing an ecologically-based mosquito management program in the Commonwealth to protect public health.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Kathleen R. LaNatra</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>

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

[Pin Slip]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

An Act establishing an ecologically-based mosquito management program in the Commonwealth to protect public health.

*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 252 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking section 2,  
2 as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

3 Section 2.(a) As used in this chapter, the following words shall, unless the context clearly  
4 requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

5 “Adulticiding”, the use of pesticides intended to kill adult mosquitoes.

6 “Disease vector”, any species of mosquito which contributes to the amplification or  
7 transmission of any disease, including Eastern Equine Encephalitis or West Nile Virus, among  
8 human or non-human populations by injection of salivary gland fluid during biting.

9 “Larviciding”, the use of pesticides intended to kill larval or pupal mosquitoes.

10 “PFAS”, a class of fluorinated organic chemicals containing at least one fully fluorinated  
11 carbon atom.

12 “Source reduction”, a method of managing mosquitoes that relies on reducing or  
13 eliminating the ability of larval habitats to support the development of larvae, including removal  
14 of artificial sources of standing, stagnant water or the restoration of natural flows and wetland  
15 systems to improve access by predators, water quality and overall aquatic health.

16 (b) There shall be a Mosquito Management Board, in this chapter called the board, which  
17 shall consist of:

18 (1) 1 employee of the department of environmental protection designated by its  
19 commissioner who shall serve as chair; 1 employee of the department of agriculture designated  
20 by its commissioner; 1 employee of the department of fish and game designated by its  
21 commissioner; and 2 employees of the department of public health designated by its  
22 commissioner, one of whom represents environmental health; and

23 (2) 5 members designated by the secretary of energy and environmental affairs including  
24 1 person representing a statewide land conservation organization or a regional or statewide river  
25 protection organization; 1 person representing beekeepers; 1 person representing a group that  
26 works to protect native pollinators; 1 person who is an expert in pesticides and mosquito control  
27 and 1 person who is an ecological risk assessor with a background in ecotoxicology. Each of the  
28 5 members designated in this paragraph shall be designated for a term of 4 years, except for  
29 persons designated to fill vacancies, who shall serve for the unexpired term. Any member  
30 appointed under paragraph 2 of this subsection shall be eligible for reappointment, so long as no  
31 specific member shall serve for more than 2 terms.

32 The designation of any member of said board may be revoked at any time, and in such  
33 case or in case of the resignation or disability of any member their successor shall be designated

34 in the same manner as in the original designation. The board shall serve in the department of  
35 food and agriculture, and the members thereof shall receive no additional compensation for  
36 service on said board, but shall be entitled to their reasonable traveling and other expenses  
37 incurred in the performance of their duties.

38 (c) The board shall regulate and oversee all disease vector mosquito management  
39 activities in the commonwealth and prepare a science-based statewide Integrated Pest  
40 Management mosquito-borne disease management plan, hereinafter called the plan. State  
41 agencies and subdivisions including but not limited to mosquito control districts, mosquito  
42 control projects and municipalities shall adhere to the plan when conducting mosquito  
43 management activities.

44 The plan shall provide an ecologically sustainable approach to the management of  
45 mosquito populations combining cultural, physical, biological and, when strictly necessary to  
46 protect public health, least-toxic chemical control strategies. The plan shall include the  
47 following:

48 (1) an emphasis on preventative measures to protect humans and livestock from  
49 mosquito-borne diseases, including surveillance, monitoring and public education on eliminating  
50 breeding sites and taking personal protective actions;

51 (2) source reduction, including removal of discarded tires and other rubbish, cleaning or  
52 draining of artificial mosquito breeding sites and restoration of streams and wetlands to restore  
53 natural flows and provide access to fish and other mosquito predators, shall be the preferred  
54 management measures;

55 (3) larvicide use shall be limited to locations where disease-bearing mosquitoes are  
56 present and source reduction has been implemented;

57 (4) adulticides shall only be applied to abate disease-bearing mosquitoes where all other  
58 methods have been implemented and the disease risk is high or critical as determined by the  
59 department of public health;

60 (5) aerial application of mosquito-control adulticides is prohibited;

61 (6) ground adulticide applications shall be limited to locations where mosquito-borne  
62 disease is detected in the current year in mosquitoes, other animals or humans;

63 (7) use of larvicides or adulticides containing PFAS or other fluorinated compounds is  
64 prohibited.

65 The board shall post a public notice of availability of the draft plan in the environmental  
66 monitor and provide a 60-day public comment period. The board shall duly consider and respond  
67 to comments received and finalize the plan. The plan shall be updated every 3 years, or more  
68 frequently, with public review. Annual operational plans and practices of any public entity  
69 conducting mosquito management activities shall be consistent with the statewide plan and  
70 revised annually based on efficacy data and mitigation of non-target impacts.

71 The board shall annually review and certify integrated pest management mosquito  
72 management plans submitted by mosquito districts or projects, municipalities and any other  
73 public agency conducting mosquito management activities; ensure consistency with the  
74 statewide plan; create policies and oversee procedures for monitoring and responding to vector-  
75 borne diseases; advise the governor when a public health emergency arises due to disease-

76 bearing mosquitoes imminently threatening to public health; authorize and carry out  
77 investigations and keep records; and carry out disease-bearing mosquito management programs  
78 when a significant area of the state is affected.

79         The board shall provide statewide education on mosquito borne diseases, best practices  
80 for eliminating artificial standing water and personal protection measures to avoid mosquito  
81 bites. The board shall ensure that all municipalities are provided with access to mosquito  
82 surveillance upon request with payment of reasonable fees. Municipalities and landowners shall  
83 have the right to opt out of larviciding or adulticiding except following a public health  
84 emergency declared

85         by the governor that includes a finding that disease-bearing mosquitoes are present at  
86 high or critical risk levels determined by the department of public health in the locations to be  
87 treated.

88         The board shall annually publish, on the commonwealth's website, activities and  
89 expenditures of the board and mosquito control districts or projects and the efficacy and impacts  
90 of the work.

91         SECTION 2. Section 5A of said chapter 252 is hereby amended by striking out, in lines  
92 82 and 88, in each instance, the following words:- state reclamation

93         SECTION 3. Section 5B of said chapter 252 is hereby amended by striking out, in line  
94 22, the following words:- state reclamation

95         SECTION 4. Said section 5B of said chapter 252 is hereby further amended by striking  
96 out, in line 25, the following word:- reclamation

97 SECTION 5. Section 14C of said chapter 252 is hereby amended by striking out, in lines  
98 4 and 5, the following words:- state reclamation

99 SECTION 6. Section 24 of said chapter 252 is hereby amended by striking out, in line 1,  
100 the words “state reclamation” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- mosquito  
101 management