HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 4909 FILED ON: 7/10/2025

HOUSE . . . . . No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

John R. Gaskey

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 providing for the structural repairs, hazard remediation and modernization of fire stations in the city of Fall River.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
John R. Gaskey	*2nd Plymouth*	*7/10/2025*

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HOUSE . . . . . No.

By Representative Gaskey of Carver, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of John R. Gaskey for legislation to make appropriations for the structural repairs, hazard remediation and modernization of fire stations in the city of Fall River. Ways and Means (Joint).

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act providing for the structural repairs, hazard remediation and modernization of fire stations in the city of Fall River.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to make supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2025, which is immediately necessary to carry out those appropriations or to accomplish other important public purposes, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. To provide for certain unanticipated obligations of the commonwealth, to provide for an alteration of purpose for current appropriations and to meet certain requirements of law, the sums set forth in this act are hereby appropriated from the General Fund unless specifically designated otherwise in this section, for the several purposes and subject to the conditions specified in this act, and subject to the laws regulating the disbursement of public funds for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026. Except as otherwise stated, these sums shall be made available through the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027.

SECTION 2.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Office of the Secretary

XXXX-XXXX For the Fall River fire station infrastructure and remediation improvement program as set forth in section 3 for the planning, engineering, environmental remediation and reconstruction of fire station facilities within the city of Fall River; provided, that funding shall include, but not limited to, the: (i) inspection and reinforcement of structural elements, including foundations, support beams, walls, staircases and roofs; (ii) repair of ceiling collapses, floor damage and other safety hazards; (iii) compliance with state and local building codes, including fire safety and seismic standards; (iv) full removal and remediation of asbestos, black mold, lead paint and other contaminants; (v) ventilation and filtration upgrades to ensure long-term air quality and safety; (vi) modernization of HVAC, electrical and plumbing systems; (vii) emergency lighting and sprinkler system upgrades; (viii) improvements to energy efficiency and sustainability; (ix) decontamination of showers and equipment washing stations; (x) firefighter-safe rest and recovery areas; (xi) accessible, gender-inclusive living and restroom facilities; and (xii) enhanced emergency communication and dispatch infrastructure; and provided further, that the program shall prioritize funding and construction to fire stations in the city of Fall River that: (a) pose immediate structural safety risks; (b) contain known toxic substances including, but not limited to, mold and asbestos; (c) are in violation of health or fire codes; (d) lack appropriate decontamination or wellness facilities; and (e) demonstrate urgent need based on age, condition or call volume..……..$15,000,000

SECTION 3. (a) For the purposes of this act, the following words shall, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

"Department", the department of fire services.

"Executive office", the executive office for administration and finance.

"Program", the Fall River fire station infrastructure and remediation improvement program.

(b) The executive office, in consultation with the department and the department of public health, shall establish and administer the Fall River fire station infrastructure and remediation improvement program. The program shall ensure that all fire station facilities within the city of Fall River are structurally sound, free from environmental hazards and adequately equipped to support the health, safety and operational readiness of the city of Fall River fire department.

(c) The department of public health shall oversee all environmental remediation work of the program to ensure compliance with applicable health and safety standards. The department shall provide oversight on structural repairs to ensure all improvements meet or exceed state and local code requirements.

(d) The executive office, in conjunction with the department, the city of Fall River and project contractors, shall submit an annual report, not later than December 31, on the program established in this act that shall include: (i) detailing project timelines, expenditures, structural evaluations and environmental remediation status of fire stations in the city of Fall River participating in the program; and (ii) any recommendations for improvements to the program. The annual report shall be submitted to the chairs of the joint committee on public safety and homeland security; the chairs of the house and senate committees on ways and means; and the clerks of the house of representatives and senate.