

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2739**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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PRESENTED BY:

***Michael O. Moore***

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*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 firefighting water supplies and a state cistern program.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Michael O. Moore*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Second Worcester*

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2739**

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By Mr. Moore, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2739) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Michael O. Moore for legislation relative to firefighting water supplies and a state cistern program. Financial Services.

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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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An Act relative to firefighting water supplies and a state cistern 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. Chapter 148 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition,  
2 is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

3           Section 61. There shall be a separate fund on the books of the commonwealth to be  
4 known as the Fire Suppression Water Resource Fund. The fund shall consist of all monies  
5 recovered as fees under section 4H of chapter 175 and any monies appropriated to the fund by  
6 the general court. Such monies shall be deposited to the credit of the fund and shall, in addition  
7 to any other monies made available for such purpose, be expended by the state fire marshal,  
8 without further appropriation, for the purchase and installation of firefighting water cisterns in  
9 the commonwealth’s rural and urban interface regions with restricted access to water. All  
10 payments from such fund shall be made on the audit and warrant of the state treasurer on  
11 vouchers certified and submitted by the secretary.

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 175 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
13 section 4G the following section:-

14 Section 4H. (a) There shall be a \$2 fee on each homeowner's insurance policy issued or  
15 renewed by any insurer authorized to issue such policies within the commonwealth.

16 (b) The fee shall be collected annually by the insurer at the time of issuance or renewal  
17 and shall be remitted quarterly to the commissioner, who shall deposit such funds into the Fire  
18 Suppression Water Resource Safety Fund established in section 61 of chapter 148.

19 SECTION 3. (a) There shall be a task force established to conduct a comprehensive study  
20 on the most effective and efficient means of implementing a cistern program across the  
21 commonwealth. The task force shall seek to investigate the costs and feasibility of creating a  
22 statewide system of water storage cisterns for the storage of water at the interface of rural and  
23 urban communities for use by the fire service in combating fire where water resources are  
24 limited.

25 (b) The task force shall consist of 6 members that shall include: (i) the state fire marshal  
26 or their designee, who shall serve as chair; (ii) the director of the Massachusetts emergency  
27 management agency or their designee; (iii) the commissioner of the department of environmental  
28 protection or their designee; (iv) the commissioner of the division of occupational licensure or  
29 their designee; (v) the chief fire warden of the department of conservation and recreation; and  
30 (vi) a representative from the Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts.

31 (c) The study shall include, but not be limited to: (i) input and recommendations from the  
32 appropriate municipal representatives from communities with documented water access  
33 challenges; (ii) evaluating the optimal placement of cisterns based on fire risk and water access;

34 (iii) ensuring that any cistern deployment strategy is based on data-driven decision-making and  
35 informed by industry best practices; and (iv) the cost to construct 10 cisterns per year and the  
36 costs for the construction, installation and maintenance of water storage cisterns at the interface  
37 of rural and urban communities throughout the commonwealth.

38 (d) The task force shall prepare a report on its activities and on any findings and  
39 recommendations for a statewide firefighting cistern strategy including but not limited to: (i)  
40 identifying priority areas for installation; (ii) potential funding sources; and (iii) regulatory or  
41 legislative changes needed to facilitate implementation. The report shall be submitted to the: (i)  
42 secretary of the executive office of public safety and security; (ii) joint committee on public  
43 safety and homeland security; and (iii) offices of the house and senate clerk not later than  
44 January 1, 2026.