

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

SENATE, January 27, 2026.

The committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1743) of Michael O. Moore for legislation relative to the Massachusetts Fire Training Council, report the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 2856).

For the committee,  
John J. Cronin

# SENATE . . . . . No. 2856

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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An Act relative to the Massachusetts Fire Training Council.

*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. Section 2 of Chapter 22D of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022
- 2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 11, the word "and".
  
- 3 SECTION 2. Section 2 of Chapter 22D, as so appearing, is further amended by striking
- 4 out, in lines 11, 12, 13 and 14, the words "of hazardous materials under the charge of a director
- 5 to be known as the director of hazardous materials, the director of hazardous materials shall
- 6 administer the regional hazardous material response teams" and inserting in place thereof, the
- 7 following new language:- "and a division of special operations under the charge of a director to
- 8 be known as the director of special operations. The special operations division shall include the
- 9 include hazardous materials emergency response teams and technical rescue emergency response
- 10 teams."
  
- 11 SECTION 3. Section 6 of Chapter 22D, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking
- 12 out, in line 6 of subsection (a), the words "each technical rescue region" and inserting in place
- 13 thereof the following new words:- "the state fire marshal".

14           SECTION 4. Section 6 of Chapter 22D, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking  
15       out subsection (b) in its entirety and inserting the following new language:-

16           “(b) There is hereby established within the department a technical rescue coordinating  
17       council, which shall serve as an advisory council to the state fire marshal. Said council shall  
18       review the development of standards, rules, procedures and regulations for technical rescue  
19       emergency response and cost recovery. The council shall consist of the secretary of public safety  
20       or a designee; the state fire marshal or a designee; and five members to be appointed by the  
21       governor, 2 of whom shall be members of the Fire Chief’s Association of Massachusetts, Inc., 2  
22       of whom shall be members of the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts; and 1 of whom  
23       shall be selected from a list comprised of 1 nominee from each technical rescue region as  
24       selected by the regional technical rescue steering committees. The governor shall appoint  
25       members for a term of 3 years and any such member shall be eligible for reappointment. A  
26       person shall not receive compensation for service as a member of the council but may receive  
27       reimbursement for all expenses necessarily incurred in connection with the member’s official  
28       duties. A member shall hold office until a successor is appointed.

29           The majority of the council shall constitute a quorum to conduct business but a lesser  
30       number may adjourn from time to time. Every two years, the council shall elect a chair and vice-  
31       chair from among its members.”

32           SECTION 5. Section 6 of Chapter 22D, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by  
33       striking out, in line 32 of subsection (c), the word “develop” and inserting in its place, the  
34       following new language:- “advise the state fire marshal on the development of”.

35                   SECTION 6. Section 6 of Chapter 22D, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by  
36                   striking out, in line 36 of subsection (d), the word “establish” and inserting in its place, the  
37                   following new language:- “advise the state fire marshal on the establishment of”.

38                   SECTION 7. Section 6 of Chapter 22D, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by  
39                   striking out subsection section (e) in its entirety and inserting the following new paragraphs:-

40                   “The department, acting through the division of special operations, administered by the  
41                   state fire marshal or his designee, shall prepare and from time to time update a technical rescue  
42                   response plan.

43                   The department may, at the request of the local fire department or on its own authority,  
44                   dispatch member departments of the technical rescue response plan to a site in the  
45                   commonwealth for the purpose of conducting a technical rescue response. During a technical  
46                   rescue response, the team leader shall have complete operational authority for technical rescue  
47                   emergency response team operations at all times. Once the team leader has determined that the  
48                   imminent danger of the technical rescue incident has been satisfactorily mitigated, the team  
49                   leader shall thereafter notify the incident commander. The incident commander shall have  
50                   authority over the technical rescue response site during a technical rescue response.”

51                   SECTION 8. Section 6 of Chapter 22D, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by  
52                   adding the following new paragraph at the end of subsection (f):- “Any technical rescue response  
53                   action taken by a member department under the technical rescue response plan shall be deemed  
54                   to have been taken on behalf of the department and for the benefit of the commonwealth for the  
55                   purpose of implementing the provisions of this chapter.”

56                   SECTION 9. Section 6 of Chapter 22D, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by  
57                   striking out, in line 54 of subsection (g), the words “the department of fire services, in  
58                   consultation with the technical rescue coordinating council may promulgate,” and inserting in  
59                   place, the following new language:- “the state fire marshal may promulgate rules and regulations  
60                   to implement this section”.

61                   SECTION 10. Section 6 of Chapter 22D, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by  
62                   adding the following new subsection:

63                   “(h) The commonwealth shall, subject to appropriation, reimburse a municipality for  
64                   costs incurred for the technical rescue response of its qualified members of a technical rescue  
65                   response team and shall pay an annual stipend up to \$5,000 to each qualified member of that  
66                   team. Qualification shall be established by the state fire marshal.”

67                   SECTION 11. Section 2DDDDDD of Chapter 29, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
68                   striking out, in lines 2 and 3, the second sentence in its entirety.

69                   SECTION 12. Section 2DDDDDD of Chapter 29, as so appearing, is hereby amended  
70                   inserting after the word “contract”, in line 4, the following new words:- “for services or  
71                   otherwise”.

72                   SECTION 13. Section 2DDDDDD of Chapter 29, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
73                   inserting after the word “expended”, in line 15, the following new words:- “by the state fire  
74                   marshal, as head of the department of fire services, who shall act as administrator of the fund,.”