SENATE DOCKET, NO. 1281 FILED ON: 1/16/2025

SENATE . . . . . No. 559

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Brendan P. Crighton

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 funding water infrastructure and addressing economic target areas.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Brendan P. Crighton	*Third Essex*

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SENATE . . . . . No. 559

By Mr. Crighton, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 559) of Brendan P. Crighton for legislation to fund water infrastructure and addressing economic target areas. Environment and Natural Resources.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. *453* OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to funding water infrastructure and addressing economic target areas.

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. Chapter 29 of the general laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, shall be amended after section 2VVVV, by inserting the following new section:-

Section 2WWWW. There shall be a Commonwealth Water Infrastructure Trust Fund. The commissioner of the department of revenue shall be the trustee of the fund and shall expend money in the fund to address the Commonwealth's water infrastructure needs. There shall be credited to the fund: (i) any fee assessment collected pursuant to section two of this act; and (ii) any interest earned on money in the fund. Amounts credited to the fund shall be expended by the commissioner pursuant to subsection (a) without further appropriation. Money remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund.

(a) The department of revenue shall: (i) proportionately distribute, for the improvement of water infrastructure within that city or town, fifty percent (50%), of the amount received from the fund to a city or town based on the amount of the additional fees collected in accordance with section 2 of this act by a city or town from the previous calendar year; (ii) distribute forty percent (40%) of the amount collected to the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust established in chapter 29C of the General Laws to provide financial assistance in the funding of water infrastructure projects or any other purpose authorized under chapter 29C; (iii) distribute five percent (5%) of the amount collected to the department of environmental protection to implement an economic target area water infrastructure initiative in accordance with section 3 of this act and (iv) distribute five percent (5%) of the amount collected to the department of revenue for administration and enforcement of this act.

(b) Annually, a city or town receiving funds from the Commonwealth Water Infrastructure Trust Fund shall submit a report to the commissioner of the department of revenue not later than December 31 detailing the water infrastructure-related projects and the amount of funds used, or planned to be used, for water infrastructure-related projects funded, in whole or part, from the Commonwealth Water Infrastructure Trust Fund. The commissioner shall compile the reports and post the projects and amounts of money used on the website of the department and forward a copy of the same to the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust.

SECTION 2. Section 22F of the Chapter 40 of the general laws, as appearing in the 2022 official edition, is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following paragraph:-

Each city or town that charges a fee for a permit to connect to the municipality’s water or sewer services shall collect an additional $250 for a residential property connection and an

additional $1,000 for a commercial or industrial property connection, apart from the municipality's established fee for such service, to be deposited in the Commonwealth Water Infrastructure Fund.

SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the department of environmental protection, in consultation with the executive office of housing and economic development, shall create an initiative to specifically work with municipalities with economic target areas in addressing their water infrastructure needs. The initiative shall include direct outreach to municipalities for purposes of assisting with the development of strategies to coordinate and plan for the upgrading of water infrastructure resources. As used in this section, "economic target area" shall be used in the same manner as applied in Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 23A, 3G.