

SENATE No.

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 a just transition to clean energy.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Brendan P. Crighton

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Third Essex

SENATE No.

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to a just transition to clean energy.

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

1 Chapter 25A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 edition, is hereby amended
2 by adding the following section:-

3 Section 11F 2/3. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall have the following
4 meanings:

5 “Carbon intensity,” means the quantity of lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions associated
6 with a unit of specific transportation fuel, expressed in grams of carbon dioxide equivalent per
7 megajoule of transportation fuel,

8 “Clean fuel,” means a transportation fuel that has a carbon intensity level that is below
9 the clean fuels carbon intensity standard in a given year,

10 “Credit,” means a unit of measurement equal to one metric ton of carbon dioxide
11 equivalent and that serves as a quantitative measure of the degree to which a fuel provider’s

12 transportation fuel volume is lower than the carbon intensity established by the clean fuel
13 standard,

14 "Credit generator" means a transportation fuel provider of a clean fuel for use in this
15 state, which, in the case of electricity used as a transportation fuel, could include, but is not
16 limited to, automakers, electric charging providers, electric utilities, and electric vehicle fleet
17 operators.

18 "Deficit," means a quantitative measure of the degree to which a fuel provider's volume
19 of transportation fuel is greater than the carbon intensity than permissible according to the annual
20 clean fuel standard,

21 "Full fuels lifecycle" means the aggregate of greenhouse gas emissions, including direct
22 emissions and significant indirect emissions, such as significant emissions from land use
23 changes, as determined by the Argonne Greenhouse gases, Regulated Emissions, and Energy use
24 in Technologies (GREET) model or a subsequent prevailing standard;

25 "Transportation fuel provider" means an entity that functions as an importer, blender,
26 refiner, producer or wholesale retailer of transportation fuels or as a retailer of a clean fuel,

27 (b)(1) The department of energy resources shall establish a clean fuel standard that
28 reduces the aggregate carbon intensity of transportation fuels by 80% from 1990 levels by 2050,
29 establishes a mechanism for the generation and trading of credits at a market-based rate to offset
30 carbon deficits, and supports clean energy and accessible transportation projects in
31 disadvantaged communities.

32 (b)(2) The clean fuel standard shall apply to transportation fuel providers with the
33 exception of providers of fuels for aviation, railroad locomotives, military vehicles, interstate
34 waterborne vessels, and fuels imported, blended, refined, or wholesaled in volumes below
35 thresholds established by the department. Sustainable aviation fuel and other clean fuels, as
36 determined by the department, shall be eligible to generate credits for the transportation fuel
37 provider of such fuels on an opt-in basis.

38 (b)(3) Aviation fuel providers are eligible to opt-in to the clean fuel standard to earn
39 credits for fueling aircraft with aviation fuel with associated lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions
40 lower than the per-unit carbon intensity established under the guidelines of the clean fuel
41 standard.

42 (b)(4) The department shall establish an annual schedule to phase-in implementation of
43 the clean fuel standard's carbon intensity reduction that considers the cost of compliance, the
44 technologies available to fuel providers, and the need to maintain fuel quality and availability.
45 The aggregate carbon intensity of a transportation fuel shall be measured on a full fuels lifecycle
46 basis. The full fuels lifecycle shall be assessed annually.

47 (c)(1) The clean fuel standard shall establish a mechanism that assigns credits to
48 transportation fuel providers whose fuel or fuels' carbon intensity is below the standards adopted
49 by the department and a market for the trading of credits at a market-based rate. Credits shall be
50 quantified based on the total emissions across the lifecycle of the provider's fuel and the annual
51 maximum allowable carbon emission intensity for that year. These credits may be applied to
52 future obligations or be traded on a market mechanism, established by the department to satisfy
53 or offset compliance obligations of transportation fuel providers incurring a deficit.

54 (c)(2) Fuel providers subject to the clean fuel standard shall comply by importing,
55 blending, refining, or wholesaling transportation fuels with an average aggregate carbon intensity
56 that is at or below the standard as determined by the department or by purchasing credits to
57 offset any aggregate deficit incurred from transportation fuels exceeding the average carbon
58 intensity standard for that year.

59 (d) Public entities serving as credit generators, to include but not limited to utilities and
60 state agencies, shall invest or direct a percentage, to be determined by the department, of the
61 entity's overall credit value to support clean energy and accessible transportation projects in
62 disadvantaged communities beyond existing local, federal, and state incentives. The department
63 shall determine projects and goals under this subdivision in consultation with credit generators,
64 communities, community leaders, and environmental justice advocates.

65 (e) The department shall promulgate rules, regulations, plans, proposals, procedures, and
66 administrative fees as are necessary and appropriate to effectuate a clean fuel standard and credit
67 marketplace to ensure compliance with this section and to offset the costs of implementation of
68 the clean fuel standard.