

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jacob R. Oliveira

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 establishing a resilient electric vehicle charging system pilot program and river restoration fund and veterans and emergency responders' fund.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: |
|--------------------------|---|
| <i>Jacob R. Oliveira</i> | <i>Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester</i> |
| <i>Todd M. Smola</i> | <i>1st Hampden</i> |

SENATE No.

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing a resilient electric vehicle charging system pilot program and river restoration fund and veterans and emergency responders’ fund.

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. Definitions

2 For the purposes of this Act, the following terms shall have the meanings ascribed to
3 them:

4 1. "Resilient Hydroelectric Power Generation" means generating stations that:

5 a. Are manufactured, installed, and operated in accordance with applicable government
6 and industry standards;

7 b. Are connected to the electric grid and operated in conjunction with an electric
8 company's transmission and distribution system during normal operation of the electrical grid;

9 c. Operate in compliance with standards and requirements established under this Act;

10 d. Utilize a synchronous generator with black start capability, frequency control, and
11 disconnect capability;

- 12 e. Do not include the active use of fossil fuels;
- 13 f. Have a nameplate capacity of 2.0 megawatts or less;
- 14 g. Do not involve any dam or water diversion structure constructed after December 31,
15 1997; and
- 16 h. Must demonstrate compliance with meeting appropriate and site-specific standards that
17 address adequate and healthy river flows, water quality standards, fish passage, and protection
18 measures, mitigation, and enhancement opportunities in the impacted watershed by obtaining
19 and maintaining a current Low Impact Hydropower Institute (LIHI) certification, provided that:
- 20 i. If the generating station is not LIHI certified prior to its participation in the Resilient
21 Electric Vehicle Charging System Pilot Program (the Program), it will submit an application for
22 certification within 3 years from the date of being enrolled in the Program and its ongoing
23 participation in the Program will be contingent on successfully obtaining and maintaining a LIHI
24 certification, including completing any certification conditions in the time prescribed.
- 25 2. "Resilient Electric Vehicle Charging System" means an electric vehicle (EV)
26 microgrid designed to provide uninterrupted electric service for EV charging throughout an
27 extended outage.
- 28 3. "Extended Outage" means an outage of the electric distribution system that
29 continues for a period of 24 hours or longer.
- 30 4. "Uninterrupted" means that the Resilient Electric Vehicle Charging System
31 generates electricity throughout an extended outage, except for momentary interruptions
32 associated with transitions to and from grid-parallel and grid-islanded operations.

33 5. "EV Microgrid" is a group of energy-generating resources with at least one source
34 of Resilient Hydroelectric Power Generation and energy storage within clearly defined electrical
35 boundaries that acts as a single controllable entity with respect to the grid for the purpose of EV
36 charging and supporting emergency response needs during an extended outage. An EV microgrid
37 can connect and disconnect from the grid to operate in both grid-connected or island-mode.

38 6. "Charging Revenue" shall constitute all onsite energy sales from EV charging
39 from a Resilient Electric Vehicle Charging System.

40 7. "Low Impact Hydropower Institute (LIHI)" is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization
41 whose stated purpose is to reduce the impacts of hydropower generation through the certification
42 of hydropower projects that have avoided or reduced their environmental impacts pursuant to the
43 Low Impact Hydropower Institute's criteria.

44 SECTION 2. Establishment of the Resilient Electric Vehicle Charging System Pilot
45 Program

46 1. Program Creation: The Department of Public Utilities (DPU) shall, within 180
47 days of the enactment of this Act, promulgate rules and regulations to establish the Resilient
48 Electric Vehicle Charging System Pilot Program ("the Program").

49 2. Program Components:

50 a. Resilience Adder: Establish a net metering adder for the valuation of uninterrupted
51 Resilient Hydroelectric Power Generation generated within an EV microgrid that participates in
52 the Program.

53 b. Timely Utility Interconnection Process: Create an expedited interconnection process
54 for Resilient Hydroelectric Power Generation comprising an EV microgrid.

55 c. Compliance and Operation Rules for Emergency Responders: Develop compliance
56 standards, routine testing requirements, and operational protocols to ensure that EV charging
57 stations are accessible and functional for emergency responders during extended outages.
58 Program compliance will be developed under Section 3 and 4 of these regulations.

59 d. Support for Resilient Communications: Require that EV microgrids incorporate
60 infrastructure to support resilient radio communications for emergency services during normal
61 operations and during extended outages. In addition, satellite or similar resilient WIFI service
62 shall be installed and provided for free public use during an extended outage as available after
63 emergency service providers.

64 SECTION 3. River Restoration Fund

65 1. Establishment: A River Restoration Fund ("the River Restoration Fund") is
66 hereby established to support environmental justice initiatives, river restoration projects, and
67 community education related to energy, the environment, and local industrial history.

68 2. Funding Mechanism: Participants in the Program shall allocate 5% of revenues
69 received from onsite EV fast charging to the River Restoration Fund.

70 3. Fund Governance and Oversight:

71 a. The independent, Massachusetts-based non-profit organization Low Impact
72 Hydropower Institute (LIHI) will manage the River Restoration Fund.

73 b. LIHI will create the necessary program(s) to select, award, and track funded
74 projects through mechanisms that may include, but will not be limited to, grants, contracts, and
75 cost-share agreements.

76 c. Entities that are eligible to apply for funding from the River Restoration Fund
77 include, but are not limited to:

78 1. Non-profit organizations that work on environmental stewardship, river
79 restoration, biodiversity conservation, environmental education, community engagement and
80 outreach on social and environmental issues, and social justice issues;

81 2. Community-based organizations that work on environmental stewardship, river
82 restoration, biodiversity conservation, environmental education, community engagement and
83 outreach on social and environmental issues, and social justice issues;

84 3. Local governments;

85 4. Tribes;

86 5. Dam owners;

87 6. Hydropower owners and operators.

88 d. Eligible entities may apply for funding from the River Restoration Fund for
89 projects related to, but not limited to:

90 1. River Cleanups: Remove debris and pollutants to improve water quality and
91 aquatic habitats.

- 92 2. Climate Resilience: Enhance resilience to climate variability for local
93 communities.
- 94 3. Addressing Aging Dam Infrastructure: Fund projects that address safety and
95 environmental concerns associated with aging dam infrastructure, including removal where
96 appropriate.
- 97 4. Fish Passage Improvements: Enhance or install structures that allow fish to
98 navigate around dams and barriers or remove select structures with support from the structure
99 owner.
- 100 5. Community Outreach and Education: Fund programs that educate the public
101 about renewable energy, environmental stewardship, and the historical significance of local
102 industrial development.
- 103 6. Environmental Justice: Fund projects and programs that provide benefits to
104 historically marginalized communities and communities disproportionately affected by
105 environmental degradation and lack of investment.
- 106 e. Reporting requirements:
- 107 1. LIHI will create, and fund recipients will adhere to, the necessary reporting
108 requirements for projects that receive funds from the River Restoration Fund.
- 109 2. Annually, LIHI will publish and submit a report on the River Restoration Fund to
110 the DPU outlining:
- 111 i. The budget and available funds;

- 112 ii. A summary of projects that applied for funding;
- 113 iii. A summary of projects that were selected for and awarded funding;
- 114 iv. Progress report on the projects that were awarded funding;
- 115 v. The outcomes and impact of projects that were awarded funds upon their
- 116 completion.

117 SECTION 4. Veterans and Emergency Responders' Fund

118 1. Establishment: A Veterans and Emergency Responders' Fund ("the Veterans and

119 Emergency Responders' Fund") is hereby established to directly support veterans and emergency

120 responders, recognizing their contributions during emergency/national security situations,

121 addressing their needs, and providing support for robust emergency response.

122 2. Funding Mechanism: Program participants shall allocate 5% of revenues received

123 from onsite EV fast charging stations to the Veterans and Emergency Responders' Fund.

124 3. Fund Governance and Oversight: Any funds related generated under this section

125 shall be distributed to the state operated Veteran's homes on an equal basis, to their special

126 account, up to \$500,000 for each home. Any excess funds over \$500,000 for each state operated

127 Veteran's homes shall be placed in the special trust fund subject to the control of the Secretary of

128 Veterans Services.

129 SECTION 5. Reporting and Accountability

130 a. Annual Report: The DPU shall submit an annual report to the Governor and the

131 Legislature detailing:

- 132 a. The number of EV microgrids established under the Program;
- 133 b. The estimated amount of energy generated and consumed;
- 134 c. Financial contributions made to the River Restoration Fund and the Veterans and
135 Emergency Responders;
- 136 d. General progress update on river restoration and community projects funded based on
137 LIHI's annual report.

138 SECTION 6. Effective Date

139 This Act shall take effect immediately upon its passage.