

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

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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PRESENTED BY:

*Ryan C. Fattman*

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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 establishing buffer zones for battery storage facilities.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Ryan C. Fattman*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Worcester and Hampden*

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

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By Mr. Fattman, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Ryan C. Fattman for legislation to establish buffer zones for battery storage facilities. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

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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 establishing buffer zones for battery storage facilities.

*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 21A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official  
2 Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following new section:-

3 "Section 29. Battery Energy Storage Facility Buffer Zones.

4 (a) Definitions. As used in this section, the following words shall have the following  
5 meanings:

6 "Battery storage facility"-a facility that uses batteries to store and distribute electrical  
7 energy.

8 "Buffer zone"- a designated distance from certain areas within which battery energy  
9 storage facilities shall not be constructed or operated.

10 "Ecologically protected area"- any land designated under state or federal law as a  
11 protected environmental zone, including wetlands, wildlife reserves, and conservation areas.

12 "Populated area"- any residentially zoned area, school, hospital, or other location with  
13 high human occupancy.

14 (b) Buffer Zone Requirements- (1) No battery storage facility shall be constructed or  
15 operated within 2000 feet of a populated area. (2) No battery storage facility shall be constructed  
16 or operated within 3,000 feet of an ecologically protected area. (3) The Department of  
17 Environmental Protection, in consultation with the Department of Fire Services, may adjust  
18 buffer distances based on facility size, battery chemistry, and risk assessment.

19 (c) Fire Mitigation and Emergency Preparedness- (1) All potential battery storage  
20 facilities shall submit a fire mitigation and emergency response plan to the Department of Fire  
21 Services and the local fire department before starting building. (2) Facilities utilizing lithium-ion  
22 or similarly volatile battery chemistries shall install fire suppression systems in accordance with  
23 regulations set forth by the Department of Fire Services.

24 (d) Environmental Protection Measures- (1) Facilities shall implement groundwater and  
25 soil contamination prevention measures, including secondary containment and spill response  
26 plans. (2) The Department of Environmental Protection shall establish guidelines for monitoring  
27 and mitigating environmental risks posed by battery storage facilities.

28 (e) Enforcement and Penalties- (1) The Department of Environmental Protection shall  
29 have the authority to enforce this section and may impose fines of up to \$50,000 per violation for  
30 noncompliance. (2) Any facility found to be in violation of this section shall be subject to  
31 suspension of operating permits until compliance is achieved."

32 SECTION 2. Chapter 148 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
33 adding the following new section:-

34 "Section 61. Battery Storage Facility Fire Safety Standards.

35 The State Fire Marshal, in coordination with the Department of Environmental  
36 Protection, shall establish safety and fire prevention standards specific to battery energy storage  
37 facilities, including but not limited to: fire suppression and containment requirements,  
38 emergency response protocols, and mandatory inspections and risk assessments at regular  
39 intervals."

40 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect immediately upon passage.