

Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities

S.2050

An Act relative to the re-homing of children

- Summary**
- Prohibits the practice of privately transferring adopted children to new homes.
 - Protects children from adoption outside of the legal system.
 - Requires adoption agencies to disclose to prospective adoptive parents any known physical or behavioral health issues of the child and the child's birth family, and to provide post-adoption services to adoptive parents and adopted children.

STATUS



SENT TO HOUSE

S.2166

Amplify hiring of persons with disabilities

- Summary**
- Requires the Supplier Diversity Office to develop and implement standard to recruit qualified job applicants with disabilities.
 - Mandates that all state employees involved with hiring personnel receive education and training regarding the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
 - Aims to decrease unemployment among qualified individuals with disabilities.

STATUS



SENT TO HOUSE

Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure

S.2194

Regulate unsolicited loans

- Summary**
- Protects customers from loan instruments, such as checks and money orders, that were not solicited by the customer.
 - Prevents and protects customers from incurring debt from these unsolicited loan instruments

STATUS



SENT TO HOUSE

S.2323

Limit check-cashing fees

- Summary**
- Limits the maximum fee charged for check cashing services and money order purchases to a reasonable percentage of the total check value
 - Sets the rate for cashing government checks at 1.5% of the check value
 - Will ensure that working individuals can retain more of their hard-earned wages

STATUS



SENT TO HOUSE

S.2050

Innovative Communities

- Summary**
- Establishes a new Innovative Communities Office to facilitate communication between tech startups and municipalities looking for innovative tech solutions for their communities.
 - Introduces the idea of Innovative Communities, municipalities in the Commonwealth that choose to partner with tech startups through the new office.
 - Calls for the development of a program to educate startups on how to market and sell products to local governments, and to educate municipalities on available technology that could aid their government.

STATUS



SENT TO HOUSE

Education

S.2061

Promote quality physical education

- Summary**
- Updates statewide physical education requirements to include charter schools.
 - Redefines physical education to also encompass fitness, nutrition, and wellness.
 - Requires that physical education be age-appropriate and evidence-based.
 - Sets minimum weekly time requirements.

STATUS



SENT TO HOUSE

S.2062

Healthy youth: sex education

- Summary**
- Requires school districts, and both traditional public and charter schools, to teach medically accurate, age-appropriate sex education.
 - Allows for parents or guardians to withdraw their child from a sex education program by requiring schools to create a written policy regarding parental notification of sex education programs.

STATUS



SENT TO HOUSE

S.2395

Update English language learning laws

- Summary**
- Requires that English language learners be offered a Language Acquisition Program in traditional public and charter schools.
 - Students will participate in dual language or transitional bilingual instruction which will allow learners to become proficient in English.

STATUS



SENT TO HOUSE

S.2109

Paint stewardship program

- Summary**
- Requires the producers of retail architectural paint to submit a plan for the establishment of a paint stewardship program to dispose of extra paint.
 - Would add the minimal cost of this program onto the cost of paint.
 - Estimated to save municipalities \$12 million annually in waste disposal expenditures.

STATUS



SENT TO HOUSE

S.2121

Emissions benchmarks update

- Summary**
- Updates statewide greenhouse gas emissions benchmarks by calling for 2030 emissions limits to be between 35-45% below 1990 emissions levels, and for 2040 emissions limits to be between 55-65% below 1990 emissions levels.
 - Keeps Massachusetts on track to meet the 2050 statewide greenhouse gas emissions limits, put in place by the Global Warming Solutions Act.

STATUS



SENT TO HOUSE

S.2389

Reduce solid waste and promote recycling

- Summary**
- Requires the DEP to set performance standards for municipal solid waste recycling, specifically household trash and debris generated by construction and demolition.
 - Relieves pressure on landfills and incinerators, and encourages policies that protect our environment.

STATUS



SENT TO HOUSE

Higher Education

S.2195

Uniform financial aid information

- Summary**
- Requires all public and private institutions of higher education to provide accepted applicants with a financial aid shopping sheet.
 - This sheet was developed by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the United States Department of Education

STATUS



SENT TO HOUSE

S.2393

Higher education opportunities for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities

- Summary**
- Requires public higher education institutions to offer inclusive opportunities to support individuals with intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorders, or other developmental disabilities.
 - Allows such individuals who are seeking to gain academic, career, technical, and independent living skills the ability to enroll in or audit credit and noncredit courses.
 - Establishes a discretionary grant program to provide funds to school districts and public state institutions to offer inclusive concurrent enrollment program options for such individuals.

STATUS



SENT TO HOUSE

S.2433

Medical placement of inmates

- Summary**
- Creates a process for the Department of Corrections to place terminally ill and permanently incapacitated prisoners, who are no longer a threat to public safety, in healthcare settings separate from state prisons.
 - Allows eligible inmates to receive end-of-life care in nursing homes or hospice care.
 - Brings Massachusetts in line with many other states that use similar medical placement systems.

STATUS



SENT TO HOUSE

S.795

An Act Relative to Adjusting the Credit for Nonpayment of Fines

- Summary**
- Updates the current credit of \$30 per day for someone incarcerated for non-payment of fines to \$60 per day.
 - This will allow offenders to spend less time in jail and pay off their fines more quickly. The credit was last updated in 1987 when it went from \$3 to \$30 per day.

STATUS



SENT TO HOUSE

S.2176

Update larceny thresholds

- Summary**
- Raises threshold of felony larceny and other property charges from \$250 to \$1,500.
 - Brings Massachusetts in line with other states.
 - Has not been updated since 1987.

STATUS



SENT TO HOUSE

S.2369

Prevent animal suffering and death

- Summary**
- Prohibits the confining of an animal in a motor vehicle in conditions that threaten the animal's health due to extreme heat or cold.
 - Allows officials to enter a vehicle for the purpose of rescuing an animal after making an effort to locate the owner.

STATUS



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Labor & Workforce Development

S.2033

Improve worker's compensation disfigurement benefits

- Summary**
- Changes compensation for bodily disfigurement to a floating calculation equal to 22.5 times the weekly wage in the Commonwealth.
 - Further allows such compensation for purely scar-based disfigurement on any part of the body. Current law only accounts for hands, feet, and neck.

STATUS



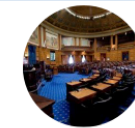
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S.2063

Social media privacy protection

- Summary**
- Prohibits employers from requesting and requiring employees or job applicants to disclose personal social media usernames or passwords.
 - Forbids schools from requiring students or applicants to disclose personal social media usernames or passwords.

STATUS



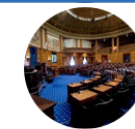
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S.2416

Prevent wage theft

- Summary**
- Holds companies liable if they contract with a subcontractor who withholds wages.
 - Company could also be held accountable for fees and fines if company knew or should have known about the wage theft violation by the subcontractor.

STATUS



SENT TO HOUSE

S.2432

Require insurance coverage of 30-day addiction treatment

- Summary**
- Expands coverage for full spectrum addiction treatment services from 14 days to 30 days.
 - Establishes that insurance carriers may initiate review procedures on day 14, but these procedures may not be used to deny a patient the 30 days of treatments or further evaluations.

STATUS



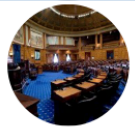
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S.2375

Protect abandoned animals in vacant properties

- Summary**
- Requires that the lessor or owner of a vacated property must inspect the property for the presence of abandoned animals within 3 days after it has been vacated.
 - If an animal is found, the lessor or owner must immediately notify an animal control officer or police officer.

STATUS



SENT TO HOUSE

S.2390

Protect puppies and kittens

- Summary**
- Prohibits the sale of puppies and kittens younger than eight weeks old, increasing the likelihood they will grow up healthy.
 - Outlines process for veterinarians to declare animals "unfit for purchase."
 - Gives remedy to pet owners who unknowingly purchase a sick pet that requires extensive medical care.

STATUS



SENT TO HOUSE

S.2408

Right to Clotheslines

- Summary**
- Prohibits the barring of an installation and use of clothesline or charging a fee for such installation or use.

STATUS



SENT TO HOUSE

S.2410

Modernize Municipal Finance and Government

- Summary**
- Eliminates or updates obsolete laws that no longer serve a meaningful purpose, including the repeal of county government finance reporting requirements and changes to the civil motor vehicle infraction law to allow cities and towns to issue citations electronically.
 - Promotes local autonomy for cities and towns, allowing for more control over certain funding decisions and local regulations.
 - Takes steps to provide municipalities with greater flexibility, including a study on double utility poles, changes to procurement laws to simplify, clarify and increase thresholds for construction contracts and updates to the way municipalities use parking revenues, to allow for use on a wide range of transportation-related issues.

STATUS



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Public Health

S.2269

Protect youth from tobacco and nicotine addiction, including raising age to 21 and including e-cigarettes

- Summary**
- Raises the legal age to purchase tobacco and other nicotine products to 21.
 - Prohibits the use of e-cigarettes on school grounds, and anywhere else where smoking is prohibited.
 - Prohibits the sale of tobacco in pharmacies.
 - Currently more than 100 cities and towns in Massachusetts prohibit tobacco sales to anyone under 21.

STATUS



SENT TO HOUSE

Public Safety

S.2216

Increase use of sheriff's community corrections and diversion programs for pre-trial detainees

- Summary**
- Allows corrections officials to place criminal defendants or pre-trial detainees in a community corrections program.

STATUS



SENT TO HOUSE

S.1494

Increase eligibility for local-option senior property tax deferral

- Summary**
- Offers property tax relief to homeowners 65 or older by allowing more seniors to qualify for the tax deferral program.
 - Increases qualifying income for seniors to \$80,000.

STATUS



SENT TO HOUSE

S.2110

Hands-free driving

- Summary**
- Bans the use of handheld cell phones when driving, in an effort to keep our roads safer.

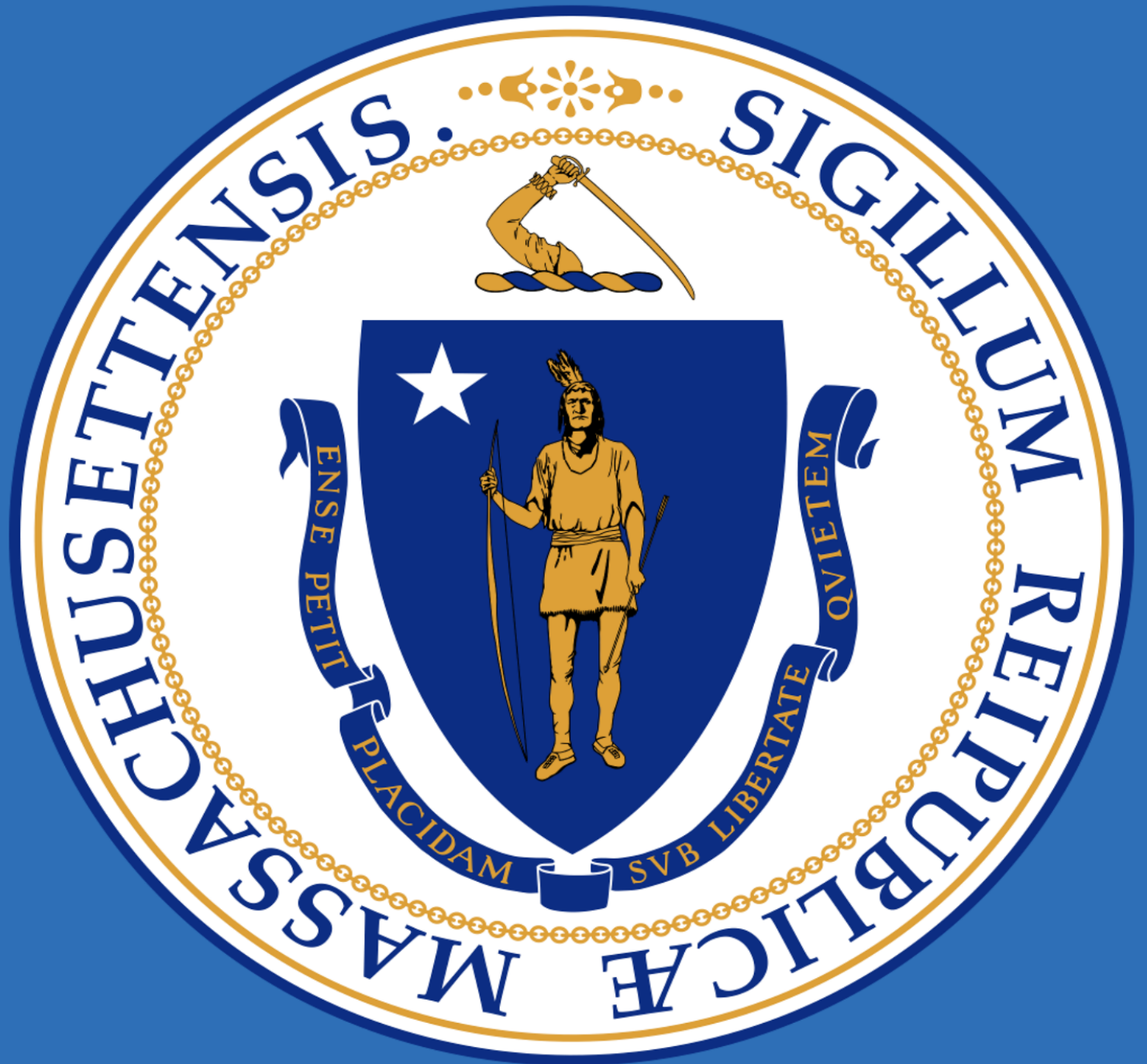
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MASSACHUSETTS SENATE



SESSION REPORT

189th General Court