

Massachusetts House of Representatives Bill Summary

Bill #: H.3997

Title: An Act establishing the suburban infrastructure fund to help municipalities pay for improvements and upgrades to town-owned roads, bridges and sidewalks

Sponsor: Rep. Dennis Gallagher

Committee: Municipalities and Regional Government

Hearing Date: July 29, 2025

Current Law: MGL Chapter 29 governs state finance. Section 2 establishes a general fund into which all revenue received by the state shall be deposited, unless the law provides for some money to be paid into a special fund other than the general fund. This section also contains many special funds which have been established over the years for various purposes, and into which revenue from various sources has been deposited.

MGL Chapter 29, Section 2ZZZ established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a separate fund to be known as the Commonwealth Transportation Fund, which shall be used exclusively for financing transportation-related purposes. This is funded in part by certain fees received from the Registry of Motor Vehicles, car sales tax, excise tax, gas tax, etc. MGL Chapter 90, Section 34 authorizes such fees to be deposited into the Transportation Fund. The so-called "Chapter 90" program funding is established annually by the Legislature. Per the legislatively established formula, the portion of overall program funding that a municipality receives is based upon local road mileage (58.33%), population (20.83%) and employment (20.83%).

Summary: Section 1 of the bill amends Chapter 29 by inserting a new section 2KKKKKK which would establish a special fund known as the Suburban Infrastructure Fund. The purpose of the fund would be to pay for improvements to specific municipally-owned road, bridge and sidewalk projects in cities and towns having a population of less than 50,000 residents.

Revenue from appropriations, bonding or other monies authorized by the Legislature designated for this purpose would be deposited into the special fund, along with any money earned from investments made using the fund's assets. The money would rollover from year to year and remain in the fund.

Administered by the Executive Office for Administration and Finance, the fund would be exclusively for those qualifying municipalities that apply for

funds. The legislation states that 100 percent of the money in the fund, but not less than \$250,000,000 each fiscal year, shall be distributed to those qualifying municipalities that apply for funding. It further states that the money would be distributed through a grant process established by the Executive Office for Administration and Finance.