

Committee on Public Health
Bill Summary

Bill No. H2519

Title: *An Act promoting efficient environmental public health protections against cancer*

Sponsor: Representative David Allen Robertson

Committee: Public Health

Hearing Date: September 10, 2025

Similar Matters: None

Prior History: Refile of H2257 of 23-24; referred to Public Health; accompanied a study order.

Reporting Deadline: November 9, 2025

Current Law:

- **M.G.L Chapter 21e § 4** pertains to response actions, actions related to assessment, containment, and removal, and the liability of persons providing care, assistance or advice under the Massachusetts Oil and Hazardous Material Release Prevention and Response Act.

Summary:

The bill establishes the Environmental Public Health Tracking Fund (EPHTF), administered by the Commissioner of DPH, to provide ongoing funding for cancer surveillance, environmental data collection, and related public health activities. It requires health surveillance and research supported by the fund to be published online and filed with the Legislature.

SECTION XX establishes the EPHTF administered by the Commissioner of DPH to provide funding to support public health investigations under M.G.L Chapter 21e § 4. The fund aims to provide ongoing funding for cancer surveillance, environmental data collection, and to support environmental public health activities, including research, sample collection, surveys, public engagement, and related administrative costs. Annual expenses of administering the fund will be determined by the Secretary of Administration and Finance in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services. Health surveillance and research efforts supported by the EPHTF must be published on the General Court's website, DPH's website, and filed with the House and Senate Clerks and Committees on Ways and Means.

Subsection (b) lists criteria that the fund must consist of, such as legislative appropriations, gifts or grants from private or public sources, any approved legislatively authorized transfers, and

state and/or federal funds. All interest earned must be retained in the fund. Any amounts contained in the fund must not revert to the general fund.