

Committee on Public Health
Bill Summary

Bill No. H2471
Title: *An Act to reduce temperature related illness in the Commonwealth*
Sponsor: Representative Michael Kushmerek
Committee: Public Health
Hearing Date: September 10, 2025
Similar Matters: None
Prior History: New file
Reporting Deadline: November 9, 2025

Current Law:

- **M.G.L. Chapter 111** pertains to public health.

Summary:

This bill requires all cities and towns in Massachusetts to provide no-cost cooling centers during periods of excessive heat. These centers must open shortly after heat advisories are issued and remain open until temperatures drop below 80°F.

This bill adds a new section, 245, to MGL Chapter 111:

- (a) Provides definitions for “Period(s) of Excessive Heat,” “Cooling Measures,” and “Cooling Centers.”
- (b) Requires all cities and towns in Massachusetts to provide cooling centers during periods of excessive heat for residents at no cost. These centers must open no later than one hour after excessive heat starts and close no earlier than one hour after it ends or when the temperature drops below 80°F, according to the National Weather Service. The Commonwealth can convert its facilities into cooling centers for towns that lack them.
- (c) Cities and towns are responsible for funding and maintaining these centers, except for those maintained by the state. Residents do not need to show proof of residency to use the centers.
- (d) Municipalities may request an exemption from DPH if the construction and/or operation and maintenance of a cooling center poses an undue burden.