

**Committee on Public Health
Bill Summary**

Bill No.	H2369/S1548
Title:	An Act to ensure cleaner air for communities overburdened by outdoor air pollution
Sponsor:	Representatives Christine P. Barber and Mike Connolly/Senator Patricia D. Jehlen
Committee:	Public Health
Hearing Date:	September 10, 2025
Similar Matters:	S1548
Prior History:	Refile of H2131 of 2023-2024; Referred to Joint Committee on Public Health; Accompanied a new draft, see S2682; Referred to Senate Ways and Means; No further action taken.
Reporting Deadline:	November 9, 2025

Current Law:

- **M.G.L. Chapter 21A** pertains to the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

Summary:

This bill aims to improve outdoor air quality in environmental justice communities and communities overburdened by pollution. The bill establishes a technical advisory committee, sets air quality improvement targets in pollution hotspots, and includes requirements for air monitoring in hotspots as well as setting air pollution reduction targets for these hotspots.

SECTION 1 amends M.G.L. Chapter 21A by inserting a new section: Section 18B.

Subsection (a) defines “black carbon”, “department”, “environmental justice population”, “HEPA filtration”, “MERV 16 filter”, “particulate matter,” “fine particulate matter”, and “ultrafine particulate matter”.

Subsection (b) requires the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), in consultation with the Department of Public Health (DPH) to convene a technical air quality advisory committee for the purpose of identifying communities with high cumulative exposure burdens to toxic outdoor air contaminants and criteria pollutants. This committee will be comprised 9 people from the following backgrounds:

- residents of environmental justice populations living adjacent to major highways;
- academics with expertise in outdoor air monitoring, environmental health, air toxics, and air pollution;
- and labor representatives.

DEP must convene the technical advisory committee by December 1, 2025. The advisory committee is required to identify likely air pollution hotspots throughout the state that should be equipped with new or expanded air monitors and establish a definition of “air quality” and “air quality target pollutants” no later than June 30, 2026 and every three years thereafter.

The advisory committee is also required to provide recommendations regarding the installation of air filtration in eligible buildings, including residential public housing; public, private, and charter schools; colleges and universities; commercial buildings, and correctional facilities, located within 200 meters of a class 1, class 2 or class 3 roadway, marine terminal, airport, or a train station or train yard serving diesel locomotives.

Subsection (c) directs DEP to install and operate stationary air monitors in at least eight air pollution hotspots by December 31, 2026 that measure for at least one of the following pollutants:

- black carbon,
- nitrogen oxides,
- ultrafine particulate matter.

DEP is required to establish baseline air quality in air pollution hotspots by June 30, 2027. Data from these air monitors should be publicly accessible and provide near-time information. After air pollution hotspots are identified and baseline air quality data, DEP will set annual targets to decrease air quality target pollutants between 2026 and 2035 in each location with air monitors.

DEP will ensure that air pollution hotspots achieve air quality target pollutant concentrations that are at least 50% below the baseline in each location by December 31, 2030. By December 31, 2035, DEP will ensure that air quality target pollutant concentrations in hotspots are at least 75% below the baseline in each location.

Subsection (d) states that provisions of this section may be enforced by action in the superior court seeking either injunctive relief, a declaratory judgment, a writ of mandamus or any combination of these items. No legal action can be taken without the plaintiff issuing written notice of violations of this chapter to the defendants at least 60 days before filing legal action in superior court. All people have standing to commence legal enforcement actions.