

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER	House, No. 7
TITLE	An Act improving the internal controls within state agencies
SPONSORS	Auditor of the Commonwealth
HEARING DATE	July 22, 2025
REPORT OUT DATE	September 22, 2025
PRIOR HISTORY	(2021-22) H3155: Favorable, referred to House Ways and Means
SIMILAR MATTERS	None
CURRENT LAW	Chapter 7A, Section 9A: Audit of commonwealth financial operations; procedures Chapter 7A Section 12: Annual reports Chapter 12, Section 5O: Agency reporting requirements

SUMMARY

SECTION 1: Eliminates the second paragraph of Chapter 7A, Section 9A of the Massachusetts General Laws

SECTION 2: Inserts a new section following Section 19 of Chapter 7A of the Massachusetts General Laws

- Comptroller (in consultation with the State Auditor) must publish regulations defining minimum internal control standards
- Agencies must maintain internal control systems including internal control plans, risk assessments, policies and procedures, and training requirements
- Each agency must designate a senior official responsible for, maintaining timely documentation, evaluating effectiveness, swiftly implementing audit recommendations, and ensuring corrective actions are reflected in budget requests
- Comptroller shall periodically prepare and update a training program on internal control standards, which the office shall publish and maintain on its official website

SECTION 3: Inserts two new sections, designated as Sections 12A and 12B, immediately following Section 12 of Chapter 7A of the Massachusetts General Laws

- Section 12A:
 - o Requires agencies to report financial irregularities (e.g., losses, thefts, violations) to the State Auditor.

- o Auditor must assess risk and materiality, and may initiate a formal review
- o Auditor must report findings and recommend corrective actions
- o Agencies must implement changes immediately to prevent problem recurrence
- Section 12B:
 - o Extends Section 20 requirements to certain public authorities not directly funded by the Commonwealth but subject to audit under Chapter 11

SECTION 4: Amends Section 5O of Chapter 12 of the Massachusetts General Laws by eliminating “chapter 647 of the acts of 1989” and inserting “section 20 of chapter 7A and section 12A of chapter 11”

HOUSE No. 7

So much of the recommendations of the State Auditor (House, No. 3) as relates to improving the internal controls within state agencies

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)

An Act improving the internal controls within state agencies.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 9A of chapter 7A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, is hereby amended by deleting lines 9 through 14, the second paragraph.

SECTION 2. Chapter 7A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting, after section 19, the following new section:-

Section 20. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the comptroller, in consultation with the state auditor, shall publish regulations to establish reporting requirements as well as internal control standards which shall define the minimum level of quality acceptable for internal control systems in operation throughout the various state agencies and departments and shall constitute the criteria against which such internal control systems will be evaluated.

Internal control systems, the components of which should include an internal control plan, a risk assessment, policies, procedures and training requirements, for the various state agencies and departments of the Commonwealth shall be developed, documented and readily accessible in accordance with internal control guidelines established by the office of the comptroller.

Within each agency there shall be an official, equivalent in title or rank to an assistant or deputy to the department head, whose responsibility, in addition to his regularly assigned duties, shall be to ensure that the agency has written documentation of its internal control system on file. Said official shall, annually, or more often as conditions warrant, evaluate the effectiveness of the agency's internal control system and establish and implement changes necessary to ensure that: (1) the documentation of all internal control systems is readily available for examination by the comptroller, the secretary of administration and finance and the state auditor, (2) the results of audits and recommendations to improve departmental internal controls are promptly evaluated by the agency management, (3) timely and appropriate corrective actions are effected by the agency management in response to an audit and (4), all actions determined by the agency management as necessary to correct or otherwise resolve matters will be addressed by the agency in their budgetary request to the general court.

The comptroller shall prepare and update from time to time a training program, which the office shall publish on its official website, a program which shall provide a general introduction and training on the requirements of this section.

SECTION 3. Chapter 11 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting, after section 12, the following two new sections:-

Section 12A. In coordination with the comptroller of the commonwealth and regulations established pursuant to section 20 of chapter 7A, all unaccounted for variances, losses, shortages, intentional violation of general laws governing commonwealth financial system operations and controls, or thefts of funds or property shall be immediately reported to the state auditor's office, who shall review the matter. Said auditor shall consider the materiality, risk, and nature of the matter reported, as well as the nature and extent of past reports involving the entity, to determine

the level of review. Should a formal review be initiated, said auditor shall report to appropriate management and law enforcement officials a determination of the amount involved and the internal control weakness that contributed to or caused the condition. Said auditor shall then make recommendations to the agency official overseeing the internal control system and other appropriate management officials. The recommendations of said auditor shall address the correction of the conditions found and the necessary internal control policies and procedures that must be modified. The agency oversight official and the appropriate management officials shall immediately implement policies and procedures necessary to prevent a recurrence of the problems identified.

Section 12B. A commonwealth authority defined in section 1 of Chapter 29 performing a public function that does not receive direct appropriations from the commonwealth, not otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the comptroller, but subject to audit under section 12 of chapter 11, is required to comply with all the requirements of section 20 of chapter 7A.

SECTION 4. Section 50 of chapter 12 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 official Edition, is hereby amended by deleting, in line 3, the words “chapter 647 of the acts of 1989” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- section 20 of chapter 7A and section 12A of chapter 11

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER

House, No. 38

TITLE	An Act relative to treasury operations
SPONSORS	Office of the State Treasurer
HEARING DATE	July 22, 2025
REPORT OUT DATE	September 22, 2025
PRIOR HISTORY	(2023-24) H.3078: Accompanied study order, H4675
SIMILAR MATTERS	H3379 (Rep. LeBoeuf)
CURRENT LAW	Chapter 7, Section 3B: Determination of charges and fees for state personnel or agency services, private use of state-owned property, meals served in state institutions and other public functions
	Chapter 10, Section 1: State treasurer; supervision of department; salary; other sources of income
	Chapter 29, Section 1: Storage of fireworks; bonds for manufacture and storage; fee
	Chapter 29, Section 34: Deposit of public monies
	Chapter 90, Section 34A: Definitions applicable to Secs. 34A to 34N
	Chapter 90, Section 34D: Registration application; cash deposit in lieu of liability bond or policy; satisfaction of judgment
	Chapter 93, Section 24A: Debt collectors and third-party loan servicers; licensing and registration requirement; rules and regulations; applicability of section to student loan servicers
	Chapter 93, Section 26: Sureties; approval; filing; cancellation; notice
	Chapter 93, Section 27: Record of bonds; open to public inspection
	Chapter 148, Sections 19-20B: Bonds for blasting permits; filing fee, Actions on bonds; employee of permittee; pro rata payment of claims, Bond for blasting operations in more than one place, and Certificate of competency to conduct blasting operations; application; fee; examination; issuance; duration; expiration; renewal; duplicate; restrictions regarding persons subject to restraining order issued pursuant to chapter 209A

Chapter 148, Sections 40-43: Storage of fireworks; bonds for manufacture and storage; fee, Actions on bonds, Displays or exhibits of fireworks; bonds, and Actions on bonds; pro rating claims; other remedies

Chapter 167F, Section 4: Selling, issuing or registering checks or money orders; multi-state licensing system

Chapter 169, Section 2-4: Sale of insurance by banks, Investments; classes of stocks, Bonds; duty of state treasurer to keep record; public inspection

SUMMARY

SECTION 1: Amends Chapter 10, Section 1 of the Massachusetts General Laws by inserting a subsection (c) directly following subsection (b)

- State Treasurer Department may reasonably charge any state agency, department or authority for providing its services

SECTION 2: Amends Chapter 29, Section 34 of the Massachusetts General Laws by replacing the figure “6” with “-12” in line 8

SECTION 3: Amends Chapter 90, Section 34A of the Massachusetts General Laws by striking the words “: or the certificate of the state treasurer stating that cash or securities have been deposited with said treasurer as provided in section thirty-four D”.

SECTION 4: Repeals Chapter 90, Section 34D of the Massachusetts General Laws

SECTION 5: Amends Chapter 93, Section 24A of the Massachusetts General Laws by inserting the words “or acceptable bond documentation” after the words “sufficient bond”

SECTION 6: Amends Chapter 93, Section 26 of the Massachusetts General Laws by replacing the third and fourth sentences with language indicating that:

- Upon approval by the commissioner of banks, bonds or acceptable bond documentation shall be accessible to the state treasurer prior to any and all acceptances of bonds

SECTION 7: Streamlines Chapter 93 Section 27 of the Massachusetts General Laws by clarifying that public inspections shall occur after the approval of bonds or applicable bond documentation made accessible to the treasurer

SECTION 8: Repeals Sections 20A and 20B, and revises Sections 19 and 20 of the Massachusetts General Laws to replace the former permit and bond-based system for blasting operations with a statewide certification framework

Chapter 19:

- Introduces a requirement for individuals to obtain a certificate of competency from the marshal before conducting blasting operations.
- Applicants must submit a completed form approved by the marshal along with a non-refundable fee set annually by the secretary of administration and finance.
- Certification requires examination of the applicant's experience and ability to safely conduct blasting activities.
- Certificates are valid statewide for up to 24 months and may be renewed periodically upon payment of a renewal fee.
- Certificates may not be renewed without examination if more than seven years have passed since the original issue.
- Duplicate certificates may be issued in cases of loss, theft, or misplacement, subject to payment of a prescribed fee.

Chapter 20:

- A valid explosive user's certificate is required for blasting in any city or town.
- Applicants must comply with fire prevention regulations.
- Insurance is required before certification:
- \$1M/person, \$5M/occurrence, \$5M aggregate for bodily injury.
- \$1M/occurrence, \$5M aggregate for property damage.
- Insurance must remain active; lapse voids the certificate until coverage resumes.
- Policy must be from a licensed insurer and include 30 days' notice to the marshal for changes.
- Coverage must last at least one year from issuance.
- The city or town of the blasting site must be listed as additional insured.

SECTION 9: Strikes sections 40-43 of Chapter 148 of the Massachusetts General Laws, replacing it with new section 40 language

- Introduces a requirement for individuals to obtain a fireworks user's certificate from the marshal before manufacturing, keeping, storing, using, discharging, firing off, exploding, or displaying fireworks.
- Applicants must submit proof of comprehensive general liability insurance before a certificate may be issued.
- Insurance coverage must provide no less than \$1 million per person and \$2 million per occurrence and aggregate for bodily injury, and no less than \$1 million per occurrence and \$2 million in the aggregate for property damage.
- Insurance policies must be issued by companies authorized to do business in Massachusetts and must remain in effect for at least one year.

- Policies must include at least a 30-day certified mail notice to the marshal for any material change, cancellation, or expiration.
- Certificates become void if insurance coverage is terminated or expires, and are not valid again until full coverage is restored.
- Redefines “loss” to include reasonable expenses incurred by a city or town in extinguishing fireworks-related fires.
- Eliminates the previous requirement for filing a bond with the municipal clerk and paying a statutory clerk’s fee.

SECTION 10: Amends the third sentence of Section 4 of Chapter 167F of the Massachusetts General Laws

- Requires the individual to make and execute a surety bond or provide equivalent documentation, cash, or securities totaling \$100,000.
- Ensures the bond or documentation is made accessible to the state treasurer through the commissioner.
- Replaces previous bond language with standardized financial assurance for regulatory oversight.

SECTION 11: Amends lines 5–6 of Section 2 of Chapter 169 of the Massachusetts General Laws

- Replaces “deliver to the state treasurer a bond” with a requirement to execute and make accessible the bond or supporting documentation through the commissioner of banks.

SECTION 12: Modifies bond approval language in Chapter 169, Section 3 of the Massachusetts General Laws

- Instead of filing the bond in the treasurer’s office, the updated language requires the bond or documentation to be made accessible to the treasurer upon approval.
- Clarifies that bond acceptance is now handled by the commissioner, not contingent on treasurer’s notice.

SECTION 13: Inserts the words “or applicable bond documentation” after “of such bonds” in line 2 of Chapter 169, Section 4 of the Massachusetts General Laws

SECTION 14: Establishes a retention period for deposits under Chapter 90, Section 34D of the Massachusetts General Laws

- Requires the state treasurer to retain any deposited cash or securities for 5 years following the effective date of this act.
- Allows for refunds after 5 years if no pending claims have been reported against the depositor or applicant.

SECTION 15: Requires notification of Chapter 90, Section 34D depositors

- Directs the state treasurer to send written notice by mail within 6 months of the act's effective date.
- Notifies all depositors or applicants with cash or securities on deposit under section 34D about the act's provisions and effective date.

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 38 FILED ON: 1/2/2025

HOUSE No. 38

So much of the recommendations of the Department of the State Treasurer (House, No. 35) as relates to treasury operations

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act relative to treasury operations.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 1 of chapter 10 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after subsection (b) the following subsection:-

(c) The department of the state treasurer, as organized in this chapter, may charge for the reasonable costs of providing services to any state agency, department or authority, as defined by section 1 of chapter 29.

SECTION 2. Section 34 of chapter 29 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 8, the figure “6” and inserting in place thereof the figure:- 12

SECTION 3. Section 34A of chapter 90 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 23 through 25, the words “: or the certificate of the state treasurer stating that cash or securities have been deposited with said treasurer as provided in section thirty-four D”.

SECTION 4. Section 34D of said chapter 90 of the General Laws is hereby repealed.

SECTION 5. Section 24A of chapter 93 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the words “sufficient bond” the following:- or acceptable bond documentation

SECTION 6. Section 26 of said chapter 93 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the third and fourth sentences and inserting in place thereof the following sentences:- The bond shall not be accepted unless it or acceptable bond documentation

is made accessible to the state treasurer after having been examined and approved by the commissioner of banks. Upon approval by the commissioner of banks, the said bond or acceptable bond documentation shall be accessible to the state treasurer.

SECTION 7. Said chapter 93, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking section 27 and inserting in place thereof the following new section:-

Section 27. The state treasurer shall keep a record open to public inspection of the approved bonds or applicable bond documentation accessible to the treasurer under the preceding section.

SECTION 8. Chapter 148 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking sections 19 to 20B, inclusive, and inserting in place thereof the following sections:-

Section 19. No person shall conduct blasting operations unless such person has applied for and obtained a certificate of competency issued by the marshal. Any person wishing to obtain said certificate shall make application on a form approved by the marshal. A fee set annually by the secretary of administration and finance, pursuant to section 3B of chapter 7, shall accompany said application. The fee shall cover the costs of the application and certificate if issued. No portion of said fee shall be refundable. Upon receipt of said application and fee, the marshal shall arrange for the applicant to be examined as to the applicant's experience and ability to conduct blasting operations. If the applicant is found to be qualified, said applicant shall forthwith be issued a certificate of competency. Said certificate shall be valid throughout the commonwealth for a period not to exceed 24 months from the date of issue. Once issued, said certificate may be renewed after its expiration and without examination, upon payment of a fee as determined by the secretary of administration and finance. However, no certificate may be renewed without examination and fee if said certificate has been in effect in excess of 7 years

from the date of original issue. The holder of a certificate of competency whose certificate is lost, misplaced or stolen may obtain a duplicate certificate from the marshal upon payment of a fee as determined by the secretary of administration and finance pursuant to said chapter 7.

Section 20. No person shall conduct any blasting operations in any city or town unless said person has applied for and been issued an explosive user's certificate issued by the marshal and in accordance with the rules and regulations of the board of fire prevention regulations.

No explosive user's certificate shall be issued without the applicant having first obtained and filed with the marshal, a certificate of insurance demonstrating the issuance of a comprehensive general liability insurance policy providing coverage for bodily injury and property damage, with limits of no less than \$1 million per person, \$5 million per occurrence, and \$5 million in the aggregate, for bodily injury, and no less than \$1 million per occurrence, and \$5 million in the aggregate, for property damage for loss, damage or injury which results from the blasting of rock or keeping of explosives. As a continuing condition of maintaining a valid explosive user's certificate, the insurance policy shall be maintained by the holder and kept in force at all times. In the event the required insurance is terminated or expires, the explosive user's certificate will become void until full coverage is restored.

The insurance policy shall be issued by an insurance company authorized to do business in the commonwealth. Each insurance policy shall provide for at least a 30 day notice by certified mail to the marshal as a condition of the policy, of any material change, cancellation or expiration of the policy. The insurance policy shall be in effect for a minimum of one year from the date of the issuance of the explosive user's certificate. The city or town where the blasting is to be done shall be named as additional insureds under the insurance policy.”.

SECTION 9. Said chapter 148, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking sections 40 to 43, inclusive, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

Section 40. No person shall manufacture, keep or store fireworks, in any quantity, except as permitted by the board of fire prevention regulations, in any building or structure unless said person has applied for and been issued a fireworks users certificate. In addition, no person shall use, discharge, fire off, explode or display fireworks by himself or his agents unless said person has applied for and been issued a fireworks users certificate by the marshal in accordance with the rules and regulations of the board.

No fireworks user's certificate shall be issued without the applicant having first obtained and filed with the marshal, a certificate of insurance demonstrating the issuance of a comprehensive general liability insurance policy providing coverage for bodily injury and property damage, with limits of no less than \$1 million per person, \$2 million per occurrence, and \$2 million in the aggregate, for bodily injury, and no less than \$1 million per occurrence, and \$2 million in the aggregate, for property damage for loss, damage, or injury which results from the keeping, discharging, firing off, exploding or display of fireworks. As a continuing condition of maintaining a valid fireworks user's certificate, the insurance policy shall be maintained by the holder and kept in force at all times. In the event the required insurance is terminated or expires, the fireworks user's certificate will become void until full coverage is restored.

The insurance policy shall be issued by an insurance company authorized to do business in the commonwealth. Each insurance policy shall provide for at least a 30 day notice by certified mail to the marshal as a condition of the policy, of any material change, cancellation or expiration of the policy. The insurance policy shall be in effect for a minimum of one year from the date of the issuance of the fireworks user's certificate.

For purposes of this section, the word “loss” shall include the reasonable expense of a city or town incurred in the extinguishing of fires caused by the discharging, firing off, exploding, displaying or keeping of fireworks.”

SECTION 10. Section 4 of chapter 167F of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the third sentence and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- Such person shall make, execute and, through the commissioner, make accessible to the state treasurer a surety bond or acceptable surety bond documentation, cash or securities, in the sum of one hundred thousand dollars.

SECTION 11. Section 2 of chapter 169 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 5 and 6, the words “execute and deliver to the state treasurer a bond” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- execute and, through the commissioner of banks, make accessible to the state treasurer a bond or acceptable bond documentation,

SECTION 12. Section 3 of said chapter 169, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 26 through 28, the words “and the state treasurer and, upon such approval by the state treasurer, it shall be filed in his office. Upon notice of such approval by the state treasurer” and inserting in place thereof the following:- and, upon such approval, the bond or acceptable bond documentation shall be made accessible to the state treasurer. Upon acceptance of the bond by the commissioner

SECTION 13. Section 4 of said chapter 169, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting, in line 2, after the words “of such bonds” the following words:- or applicable bond documentation

SECTION 14. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, any cash or securities that have been deposited with the state treasurer pursuant to said section 34D shall be retained

for a period of 5 years after the effective date of this act. After such 5 year period, provided the state treasurer has not received actual notice of a claim pending against the applicant or depositor, such cash or securities may be refunded by the state treasurer.

SECTION 15. Not later than 6 months after the effective date of this act, the state treasurer shall, at a minimum, send written notice by mail to the address of record of all depositors or applicants who have cash or securities on deposit with the state treasurer pursuant to said section 34D informing the depositor or applicant of the provisions and effective date of this act.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER	House, No. 3289
TITLE	An Act relative to the enhanced disposition of surplus motor vehicles owned by the commonwealth or authorities established by the state
SPONSORS	Representative Bruce Ayers
HEARING DATE	July 22, 2025
REPORT OUT DATE	September 22, 2025
PRIOR HISTORY	(2023-24) H2983: Accompanied study order, H4675 (2021-22) H3103: Accompanied study order, H4969
SIMILAR MATTERS	None

CURRENT LAW

Section 36A of Chapter 30: regarding purchase, replacement, or repair of motor vehicles owned by the commonwealth

SUMMARY

SECTION 1: Amends section 36A of chapter 30 by inserting a new paragraph.

- Any state motor vehicle, including construction and snow removal, that has been determined surplus shall be offered at sale or auction to the cities and towns of the Commonwealth.
- The Executive Office of Administration and Finance shall establish guidelines for such sales. Any vehicle not sold in this manner may then be made available to the general public for sale and/or auction.

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 2171 FILED ON: 1/15/2025

HOUSE No. 3289

By Representative Ayers of Quincy, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3289) of Bruce J. Ayers relative to the sale or auction of surplus state motor vehicles to cities and towns. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2983 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act relative to the enhanced disposition of surplus motor vehicles owned by the commonwealth or authorities established by the state.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Section 36A of Chapter 30 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting at the end of the first paragraph the following new paragraph:—

Any state motor vehicle or a motor vehicle owned by a state authority, including construction and snow removal equipment, that has been determined to be surplus property and no longer useable by the Commonwealth shall be offered at sale or auction to the cities and towns of the Commonwealth. The Executive Office of Administration and Finance shall promulgate rules and regulations that establish guidelines for such sales and auctions including but not limited to notice payment, delivery and liability. Any motor vehicle that is not sold or auctioned off in this manner may then be made available to the general public for sale and/or auction. For the purpose of this section, motor vehicle shall be defined as any vehicle constructed and designed for propulsion by power other than muscular strength including any such vehicles pulled or towed by another motor vehicle.

**Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight
Bill Summary**

BILL NUMBER	House, No. 3307
TITLE	An Act banning hostile architecture targeting unhoused individuals
SPONSORS	Representative Mike Connolly
HEARING DATE	July 22, 2025
REPORT OUT DATE	September 22, 2025
PRIOR HISTORY	(2023-24) H3005: Favorable, referred to House Steering (2021-22) H3963: Favorable, referred to House Ways and Means
SIMILAR MATTERS	None
CURRENT LAW	Chapter 40: establishes the powers and duties of cities and towns Chapter 7C: establishes the role of the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance regarding property owned by the Commonwealth

Chapter 161A: outlines the structure and duties of the
Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority
Chapter 265: addresses offenses against individuals

SUMMARY

Section 1. Inserts a new section.

“Hostile architecture” means any building or structure designed to prevent unhoused individuals from sitting or lying on the building or structure. It also prevents those from skateboarding or rollerblading or preventing vehicles from entering certain areas.

A municipality shall not install or construct hostile architecture on any publicly accessible real property.

Section 2. Inserts a new section.

“Hostile architecture” means any building or structure designed to prevent unhoused individuals from sitting or lying on the building or structure. It also prevents those from skateboarding or rollerblading or preventing vehicles from entering certain areas.

The commissioner of the Department of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance shall not install or construct hostile architecture on any publicly accessible real property.

Section 3. Inserts a new section.

“Hostile architecture” means any building or structure designed to prevent unhoused individuals from sitting or lying on the building or structure. It also prevents those from skateboarding or rollerblading or preventing vehicles from entering certain areas.

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority shall not install or construct hostile architecture on any publicly accessible real property.

Section 4. Inserts a new section.

“Hostile architecture” means any building or structure designed to prevent unhoused individuals from sitting or lying on the building or structure. It also prevents those from skateboarding or rollerblading or preventing vehicles from entering certain areas.

If you install or construct hostile architecture on any publicly accessible real property you shall be punished by a fine of no more than \$500 per day for each violation.

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 2109 FILED ON: 1/15/2025

HOUSE No. 3307

By Representative Connolly of Cambridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3307) of Mike Connolly for legislation to prohibit the construction of publicly accessible buildings or structures designed or intended to prevent unhoused individuals from sitting or lying on the building or structure at street level. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3005 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—————
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**
—————

An Act banning hostile architecture targeting unhoused individuals.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 40 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

Section 70. (a) For purposes of this section, the term “Hostile architecture” shall, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, mean any building or structure that is designed or intended to prevent unhoused individuals from sitting or lying on the building or structure at street level; provided, that hostile architecture shall not include design elements intended to prevent individuals from skateboarding or rollerblading or to prevent vehicles from entering certain areas.

(b) A municipality shall not install or construct hostile architecture in any publicly accessible building or on publicly accessible real property owned by or under the control of the municipality.

SECTION 2. Chapter 7C of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

Section 73. (a) For purposes of this section, the term “Hostile architecture” shall, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, mean any building or structure that is designed or intended to prevent unhoused individuals from sitting or lying on the building or structure at street level; provided, that hostile architecture shall not include design elements intended to prevent individuals from skateboarding or rollerblading or to prevent vehicles from entering certain areas.

(b) The commissioner shall not install or construct hostile architecture in any publicly accessible capital facility or on publicly accessible real property under the commissioner's control or supervision.

SECTION 3. Chapter 161A of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

Section 53. (a) For purposes of this section, the term "Hostile architecture" shall, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, mean any building or structure that is designed or intended to prevent unhoused individuals from sitting or lying on the building or structure at street level; provided, that hostile architecture shall not include design elements intended to prevent individuals from skateboarding or rollerblading or to prevent vehicles from entering certain areas.

(b) The authority shall not install or construct hostile architecture in any publicly accessible mass transportation facilities under the authority's control or supervision.

SECTION 4. Chapter 265 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

Section 73. (a) For purposes of this section, the term "Hostile architecture" shall, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, mean any building or structure that is designed or intended to prevent unhoused individuals from sitting or lying on the building or structure at street level; provided, that hostile architecture shall not include design elements intended to prevent individuals from skateboarding or rollerblading or to prevent vehicles from entering certain areas.

(b) Whoever installs or constructs hostile architecture on any publicly accessible real property shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$500 for each day in violation of this section.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER	House, No. 3311
TITLE	An Act advancing equity for rural communities receiving state grants
SPONSORS	Representative Leigh Davis
HEARING DATE	July 22, 2025
REPORT OUT DATE	September 22, 2025
PRIOR HISTORY	(2023-24) H3102: Accompanied study order, H4675 (2021-22) H3108: Accompanied study order, H4969
SIMILAR MATTERS	None
CURRENT LAW	Chapter 7: establishes the Executive Office for Administration and Finance and outlining its structure and duties
SUMMARY	Inserts a new section in chapter 7.

Inserts a definition for “rural communities” which means municipalities with populations fewer than 500 persons per square mile or a population with fewer than 7,000 persons.

The secretary shall give preference to rural communities that plan to use funds to regionalize or share services that serve rural communities. The secretary shall also direct agencies to inform rural communities about discretionary grant programs that want to regionalize and share services. Every year the secretary shall submit a report on the implementation of this section.

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 875 FILED ON: 1/13/2025

HOUSE No. 3311

By Representative Davis of Great Barrington, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3311) of Leigh Davis and others relative to state grants for rural communities. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3102 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—————
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**
—————

An Act advancing equity for rural communities receiving state grants.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Chapter 7 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding after section 62 the following section:-

Section 63. As used in this section the following words shall have the following meanings:-

“Rural communities”, municipalities with population densities of less than 500 persons per square mile or a population of less than 7,000 persons, in each case as shown in the most recent U.S. decennial census.

The secretary shall direct all departments, commissions, offices, boards, divisions, institutions or other agencies administering grant programs to give preference to rural communities, particularly those that intend to use funds to regionalize or share services, and to grant applicants that serve rural communities.

The secretary shall direct all such agencies to identify and inform rural communities of discretionary grant programs and incentives for which rural communities wishing to regionalize or share services could benefit from preferences under this section.

The secretary shall annually, on or before July 1, report on the implementation of this section to the senate and house committees on ways and means, the joint committee on municipalities and regional government and members of the general court who represent rural communities.

**Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight
Bill Summary**

BILL NUMBER	House, No. 3317
TITLE	An Act providing for gender-neutral bathrooms
SPONSORS	Representatives Mindy Domb and Samantha Montaña
HEARING DATE	July 22, 2025
REPORT OUT DATE	September 22, 2025
PRIOR HISTORY	(2023-24) H3019: Favorable, referred to House Ways and Means (2021-22) H3124: Favorable, referred to House Ways and Means
SIMILAR MATTERS	S2116 (Sen. Comerford—identical)
CURRENT LAW	Chapter 142: regarding the supervision of plumbing

SUMMARY

Directs the board of state examiners of plumbers and gas fitters to promulgate State Building Code regulations to allow for gender neutral bathrooms to be designed and installed in any use group defined by the 780 CMR Massachusetts state building code regardless of whether the work being performed is new construction, repair, renovation or alteration work.

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 2201 FILED ON: 1/15/2025

HOUSE No. 3317

By Representatives Domb of Amherst and Montañó of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3317) of Mindy Domb and Samantha Montañó relative to the promulgation of State Building Code regulations to allow for gender-neutral bathrooms. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—————
In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)
—————

An Act providing for gender-neutral bathrooms.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Chapter 142 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 13 the following section:-

Section 13A. The Uniform State Plumbing Code shall include regulations that allow gender-neutral toilet and bathing facilities, including toilet and bathing facilities that contain more than 1 toilet, urinal or shower separated by privacy walls or partitions, with separate or grouped handwashing fixtures, to be designated or installed in any use group defined in the state building code, regardless of whether the work being performed is new construction or repair, renovation or alteration work.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER	House, No. 3318
TITLE	An Act to increase access to menstrual products in public buildings
SPONSORS	Representative Mindy Domb
HEARING DATE	July 22, 2025
REPORT OUT DATE	September 22, 2025
PRIOR HISTORY	(2023-24) H3018: Favorable, referred to House Ways and Means
SIMILAR MATTERS	S2156 (Sen. Jehlen—Identical)
CURRENT LAW	Chapter 7C: establishing the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance Chapter 15A: regarding the commonwealth’s public education system

SUMMARY

Inserts a new section 73 in chapter 7C.

Inserts definitions for “menstruating individuals” and “disposable menstrual products.”

All property occupied by the Commonwealth shall provide free disposable menstrual products in the bathrooms for everyone at no charge.

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 2344 FILED ON: 1/16/2025

HOUSE No. 3318

By Representative Domb of Amherst, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3318) of Mindy Domb relative to menstrual products in state buildings. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act to increase access to menstrual products in public buildings.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 7C of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 72, the following section:-

Section 73.

a. As used in this chapter, the following words shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

“Menstruating individuals,” any person who menstruates.

“Disposable menstrual products,” products used by menstruating individuals including, but not limited to, sanitary napkins, tampons, and underwear liners.

b. The Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance shall maintain, in all real property owned, rented or otherwise occupied by public agencies of the Commonwealth, free disposable menstrual products in both public and private restrooms for use by menstruating individuals, whether they are employees or members of the general public. Such products shall be provided at no charge. Such products shall be available in a convenient manner that does not stigmatize any persons seeking such products.

SECTION 2: Chapter 15A of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 27 the following section:-

Section 27A.

a. As used in this chapter, the following words shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

“Menstruating individuals,” any person who menstruates.

“Disposable menstrual products,” products used by menstruating individuals including, but not limited to, sanitary napkins, tampons, and underwear liners.

b. Each public institution of higher education shall provide disposable menstrual products to menstruating individuals in the restrooms of any such institution’s building at no cost. The

disposable menstrual products shall be available in a convenient manner that does not stigmatize the individual seeking such products.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER	House, No. 3321
TITLE	An Act modernizing microphotographic recording of documents
SPONSORS	Representative Daniel Donahue
HEARING DATE	July 22, 2025
REPORT OUT DATE	September 22, 2025
PRIOR HISTORY	(2023-24) H3022: Accompanied study order, H4675
SIMILAR MATTERS	None
CURRENT LAW	Section 15 of chapter 36: outlining the method of recording documents for registries of deeds

SUMMARY

Amends section at of chapter 36 such that each register shall duplicate copies of all books in their registry not by a microphotographic process but a format approved by the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 1832 FILED ON: 1/15/2025

HOUSE No. 3321

By Representative Donahue of Worcester, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3321) of Daniel M. Donahue relative to microphotographic recording of documents. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act modernizing microphotographic recording of documents.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

"SECTION XX: Section 15 of chapter 36, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended, by striking out, in line 6, the words "microphotographic process".

SECTION XX: Said section 15 of said chapter 36, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by inserting, in line 8, after the word "entered", the words:- in a format approved by the Secretary of the Commonwealth".

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER	House, No. 3330
TITLE	An Act relative to municipal light plants
SPONSORS	Representative Kimberly Ferguson
HEARING DATE	July 22, 2025
REPORT OUT DATE	September 22, 2025
PRIOR HISTORY	None
SIMILAR MATTERS	H3457 (Rep. Chaisson) S2277 (Sen. Feeney)
CURRENT LAW	Section 4A of chapter 40: authorizes chief executive officers of cities or towns to enter into agreements with other governmental units Section 47B of chapter 164: authorizes municipalities to use facilities outside of the municipality's limits

SUMMARY

Section 1: Strikes the word “and” in line 8 of section 4A of chapter 40, which is a technical change to “board of selectmen in a district by the prudential committee.”

Section 2: Inserts language into section 4A of chapter 40 in line 9 that would include municipal light plant communities, so they would be able to enter into agreements with one another to obtain joint services for their communities.

Sections 3 and 4: Strikes the word “or” in line 28 of section 4A of chapter 40 as a technical change and then in section 4 inserts language that would include a “municipal light plant” as a governmental unit.

Section 4: Inserts subsection (b) that municipal light boards may provide services to other local, state, tribal, or public utility, or governmental unit whether it is inside or outside the Commonwealth to construct and install equipment as if it were doing it within its own service territory. The municipal light board may sell, rent or lease its equipment for the provided services. An employee that provides services between a municipal light board and another public entity shall be a part of the Commonwealth’s retirement system under chapter 32.

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 553 FILED ON: 1/10/2025

HOUSE No. 3330

By Representative Ferguson of Holden, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3330) of Kimberly N. Ferguson and others relative to municipal light plants. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—————
In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)
—————

An Act relative to municipal light plants.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 4A of Chapter 40 of the General Laws as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by deleting in line 8 after the word “selectmen” the words “, and ”

SECTION 2. Said section of said chapter is hereby further amended by adding in line 9 after the word “committee” the following words: , in a municipal light plant by the board or commission;

SECTION 3. Said section of said chapter is further amended by deleting in line 28 the word “or”

SECTION 4. Said section of said chapter is further amended by deleting in line 29 “.” and by adding the following words: , or a municipal light plant established under chapter 164 or by special law.

Section 4. Section 47B of Chapter 164 of the General Laws as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition is hereby amended by adding the following subsection:-

(b) Any municipality acting by and through its municipal light board may provide services and assistance to any municipal or state utility, tribal utility as defined in 25 CFR § 169.2, or any other publicly-owned or operated utility, whether located inside or outside of the Commonwealth, and governmental units as defined in section 4A of chapter 40, to construct, install, alter, operate, maintain or repair utility poles and conduit, wires, cables, and equipment, and streetlights and traffic signals to the same extent such municipality acting by and through its municipal light board may provide such services within its service territory. Any such municipality acting by and through its municipal light board may sell, rent, or lease merchandise, equipment, fixtures, utensils and chattels of any description related to the provision of such services. Any employee providing such services entered into between the municipality acting by and through its municipal light board and such other public entity shall be subject to the provisions of chapter thirty-two, sections one to twenty-eight, inclusive, and shall have the same rights and privileges thereunder, as if performing the same duties within the scope of his employment including voluntary assignments.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER	House, No. 3355
TITLE	An Act relative to prohibiting discrimination in public accommodations
SPONSORS	Representative Steven Howitt
HEARING DATE	July 22, 2025
REPORT OUT DATE	September 22, 2025
PRIOR HISTORY	(2023-24): H3054: accompanied study order, H4675 (2021-22) H3170: accompanied study order, H4969
SIMILAR MATTERS	None
CURRENT LAW	Section 29F of chapter 29: regarding exclusions from public contracting

SUMMARY

Inserts a clause in section 29F(c)(1) that would make it a debarment to discriminate in public accommodations.

Inserts a clause in section 29F(c)(2) that would make it a debarment to:

- Adopt policies against nations or people to discriminate in public accommodations or employment
- Any causes that are so serious and compelling that affect a contractor’s responsibilities as determined by the secretary or commissioner

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 1163 FILED ON: 1/14/2025

HOUSE No. 3355

By Representative Howitt of Seekonk, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3355) of Steven S. Howitt relative to the reasons for debarment from the consolidated list of contractors for public contracts. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3054 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—————
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**
—————

An Act relative to prohibiting discrimination in public accommodations.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Clause (1) of subsection (c) of Section 29F of Chapter 29 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “or”, in line 82, the following:-

“(xi) a violation of any state or federal law prohibiting discrimination in public accommodations; or”

SECTION 2. Clause (2) of subsection (c) of Section 29F of Chapter 29 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition is hereby amended by striking subclause (v), in lines 97 to 100, and inserting in place there of the following:-

“(v) adopted policies against any sovereign nation or peoples recognized by the government of the United States which are used to discriminate in violation of any state or federal law prohibiting discrimination in public accommodations or employment; (vi) any other cause affecting the responsibility of a contractor which the secretary or the commissioner determines to be of such serious and compelling nature as to warrant debarment”

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER	House, No. 3356
TITLE	An Act relative to transparency for grant applications
SPONSORS	Representative Steven Howitt
HEARING DATE	July 22, 2025
REPORT OUT DATE	September 22, 2025
PRIOR HISTORY	(2023-24): H3053: accompanied study order, H4675 (2021-22) H3170: accompanied study order, H4969
SIMILAR MATTERS	None
CURRENT LAW	Chapter 10: outlines the duties and responsibilities of the state treasurer

SUMMARY

Section 1. Nonprofits that receive state grant funding must provide: a financial statement of any existing endowment, a list of foreign donors and the amount of money, goods, or services donated within the last 5 years, a statement disclosing contracts with the Commonwealth for goods and/or services rendered, a statement disclosing existing business contracts between the Commonwealth and board of directors.

Section 2. The treasurer shall promulgate rules and regulations to implement this act.

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 1164 FILED ON: 1/14/2025

HOUSE No. 3356

By Representative Howitt of Seekonk, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3356) of Steven S. Howitt relative to information provided to relevant state agencies upon the submission of applications for state grant funding. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3053 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—————
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**
—————

An Act relative to transparency for grant applications.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general provisions or special laws to the contrary, nonprofit organizations shall provide the following to relevant state agencies upon the submission of an application for state grant funding:

(1) A financial statement containing a full accounting of any existing endowment belonging to the nonprofit.

(2) A comprehensive listing of any and all foreign donors and the amount of money, goods and/or services donated to that organization within the last 5 years.

(3) A statement disclosing contracts with the Commonwealth for goods and/or services rendered.

(4) A statement disclosing existing business contracts between the Commonwealth and members of the board of directors for said organization.

SECTION 2. The office of the treasurer shall promulgate rules, regulations, and relevant documentation pursuant to the implementation of this Act.

**Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight
Bill Summary**

BILL NUMBER	House, No. 3357
TITLE	An Act relative to responsibly reducing emissions in the transportation sector
SPONSORS	Representative Steven Howitt
HEARING DATE	July 22, 2025
REPORT OUT DATE	September 22, 2025
PRIOR HISTORY	None
SIMILAR MATTERS	H3406 (Rep. Puppolo, Jr. – Identical) S2185 (Sen. Moore – Identical)
CURRENT LAW	Section 9A of chapter 7: This section governs the secretary of Administration & Finance promulgating regulations on purchase of vehicles Section 142K of chapter 11: Motor vehicle emissions standards
SUMMARY	

Section 1: Beginning on July 1, 2025 the Commonwealth shall purchase or lease zero emission medium and heavy duty trucks. If the Commonwealth is unable to comply by 7/1/2025, the secretary of Administration and Finance shall submit a progress report by 7/1/2025.

Section 2: The Department of Environmental Protection shall not enforce the Advanced Clean Trucks and Heavy-Duty Omnibus regulations (which requires manufacturers to sell more zero-emissions vehicles), as they apply to Massachusetts, before July 1, 2027.

This act shall take effect upon passage.

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 1893 FILED ON: 1/15/2025

HOUSE No. 3357

By Representative Howitt of Seekonk, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3357) of Steven S. Howitt and others relative to state purchased trucks and certain clean trucks regulations. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act relative to responsibly reducing emissions in the transportation sector.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 9A of Chapter 7 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting the following paragraphs at the end thereof:

Beginning in July 1, 2025, all Commonwealth purchases or leases for new medium- and heavy-duty trucks shall be for models that are zero emissions vehicles. Further, the Commonwealth shall ensure that its fleet of medium- and heavy-duty, whether owned or leased, is comprised of zero emission vehicles by June 30, 2035. Zero emission vehicle shall mean a battery electric medium- or heavy-duty truck.

In the event that there are no battery electric medium- and heavy-duty trucks that meet the Commonwealth's needs or cannot be supported by the Commonwealth's existing charging infrastructure for medium- and heavy-duty trucks, the secretary shall be permitted to purchase any other medium- or heavy-duty truck that is not a battery electric vehicle.

The secretary shall submit to the clerks of the senate and house of representatives and the chairs of the joint committee on transportation a statement annually, not later than July 1, detailing the progress made in meeting the requirements of this section. The report shall include: (i) a complete listing of medium- and heavy-duty trucks leased, owned or assigned to each agency; and (ii) a description of each medium- and heavy-duty truck, including the year, make and model, whether the truck is powered by an internal combustion engine, a mild hybrid engine, a plug-in hybrid motor, a fully battery electric motor, a hydrogen fuel cell electric motor, a compressed liquefied natural gas engine, a propane engine or other means of propulsion. If a zero emission medium- or heavy-duty truck is not purchased or leased, the secretary shall provide, in each instance, a specific explanation as to why a zero emission vehicle could not have sufficiently fulfilled the intended functions.

SECTION 2. Section 142K of chapter 111 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting the following at the end thereof:-

Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the Department of Environmental Protection shall not implement or enforce the Advanced Clean Trucks and Heavy-Duty Omnibus regulations, as modified to apply to Massachusetts, earlier than July 1, 2027. As used in this section, "Advanced Clean Trucks regulation" means the portion of the California Low Emission Vehicle program that was adopted by the California Air Resources Board, and which would require manufacturers of medium-duty and heavy-duty motor vehicles to sell an increasing percentage of zero-emissions vehicles, including the provisions codified in sections 1905, 1963, and sections 1963.1 through 1963.5 of Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations. "Heavy Duty Omnibus regulation" means the portion of the California Low Emission Vehicle program that was adopted by the California Air Resources Board regulation in title 13, California Code of Regulations sections 2139.5, and 2169.1 through 2169.8 and any other related amendments relative to the emissions standards for nitrogen oxide for medium-duty and heavy-duty motor vehicles.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect immediately upon passage.

**Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight
Bill Summary**

BILL NUMBER	House, No. 3362
TITLE	An Act relative to requiring premium impact statements
SPONSORS	Representative Bradley Jones
HEARING DATE	July 22, 2025
REPORT OUT DATE	September 22, 2025
PRIOR HISTORY	(2023-24) H3065: accompanied study order, H4675 (2021-22) H3105: accompanied study order, H4969
SIMILAR MATTERS	S885 (Sen. Lovely—Identical)
CURRENT LAW	Chapter 9: outlining the duties and responsibilities of the department of the state secretary
SUMMARY	

This bill would require that, prior to any significant change to healthcare or health insurance regulation, an agency must file with the Secretary of State's office a public notice of the proposed change and a statement explaining the potential impact of this change on health insurance premiums. This requirement would also be implemented for any potential legislative change to healthcare or health insurance law.

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 1298 FILED ON: 1/14/2025

HOUSE No. 3362

By Representative Jones of North Reading, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3362) of Bradley H. Jones, Jr., and others for legislation to require disclosure of changes to health care and insurance regulations by certain state agencies. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3065 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)

An Act relative to requiring premium impact statements.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Prior to the adoption, amendment, or repeal of any health care or health insurance-related regulation, an agency must file with the secretary of state's office a public notice of the proposed action and include a premium impact statement. In the statement, the agency must consider the impact the proposed action will or will not have on health insurance premium rates in Massachusetts. The agency must afford the public an opportunity to present data, views, or arguments related to the impact statement, and prior to adopting the proposed regulation, the agency must file an amended premium impact statement with the secretary of state's office.

SECTION 2. Any joint committee, house committee, or senate committee may report favorably any bill or petition relative to health care or health insurance so long as that bill or petition shall have first received a premium impact statement conducted by the center for health information and analysis. Any joint committee, house committee or senate committee shall refer all healthcare and health insurance related bills or petitions to an accompanied study order pending a final report by the center for health information and analysis pursuant to this section."

**Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight
Bill Summary**

BILL NUMBER	House, No. 3370
TITLE	An Act relative to fairness in public contracting
SPONSORS	Representative Meghan Kilcoyne
HEARING DATE	July 22, 2025
REPORT OUT DATE	September 22, 2025
PRIOR HISTORY	(2023-24) H3072: favorable, referred to House Ways and Means
SIMILAR MATTERS	S2194 (Sen. Oliveira—Identical)
CURRENT LAW	Section 37 of chapter 6C: establishing the division of highways

SUMMARY

Calls for the amendment of the standard specifications for the division of highways to provide a minimum of 15% for overhead for work that is considered additional work.

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 1230 FILED ON: 1/14/2025

HOUSE No. 3370

By Representative Kilcoyne of Clinton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3370) of Meghan K. Kilcoyne and Jacob R. Oliveira relative to additional work in contracts of the Division of Highways. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—————
In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)
—————

An Act relative to fairness in public contracting.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the division of highways, as established by Section 37 of Chapter 6C of the General Laws, is hereby directed to amend its

standard specifications, supplemental specifications, special provisions, and contract documents to provide for a minimum of 15 percent for overhead for work deemed to be additional work or extra work.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER	House, No. 3378
TITLE	An Act to simplify the language used by state agencies
SPONSORS	Representative David LeBoeuf
HEARING DATE	July 22, 2025
REPORT OUT DATE	September 22, 2025
PRIOR HISTORY	(2023-24) H3781: accompanied study order, H4675
SIMILAR MATTERS	None
CURRENT LAW	Section 4C of chapter 7D: regarding the appointment of a chief digital officer

SUMMARY

The chief digital officer shall have plain and simple language for web services used by the public.

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 116 FILED ON: 1/6/2025

HOUSE No. 3378

By Representative LeBoeuf of Worcester, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3378) of David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf and John R. Gaskey for legislation to simplify the language used on the state website by executive offices and agencies. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3781 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—————
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**
—————

An Act to simplify the language used by state agencies.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Section 4C of chapter 7D of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the second sentence and inserting in place thereof the following 4 sentences:- The chief digital officer shall improve the web services for executive offices and agencies. The chief digital officer will require plain and simple language consistent with the average reading comprehension level of residents of the commonwealth as determined by the commissioner of elementary and secondary education for web services. The web services will include information on common issues faced by the public. The chief digital officer will provide analog alternatives for the web services information written in plain and simple language consistent with the average reading comprehension level of residents of the commonwealth as determined by the commissioner of elementary and secondary education.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER	House, No. 3379
TITLE	An Act relative to Treasury operations
SPONSORS	Representative David LeBoeuf
HEARING DATE	July 22, 2025
REPORT OUT DATE	September 22, 2025
PRIOR HISTORY	(2023-24) H3078: accompanied study order, H4675 (2021-22) H32: accompanied study order, H4969
SIMILAR MATTERS	H38 (Office of the State Treasurer)
CURRENT LAW	Section 1 of Chapter 10: establishing the department of the state treasurer
SUMMARY	

This act would allow the State Treasurer to charge for reasonable costs of services to state agencies, departments, or authorities.

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 724 FILED ON: 1/13/2025

HOUSE No. 3379

By Representative LeBoeuf of Worcester, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3379) of David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf for legislation to further regulate certain operations of the Department of the State Treasurer. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3078 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act relative to Treasury operations.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 1 of chapter 10 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after subsection (b) the following subsection:-

(c) The department of the state treasurer, as organized in this chapter, may charge for the reasonable costs of providing services to any state agency, department or authority, as defined by section 1 of chapter 29.

SECTION 2. Section 34 of chapter 29 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 8, the figure “6” and inserting in place thereof the figure:- 12

SECTION 3. Section 34A of chapter 90 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 23 through 25, the words “: or the certificate of the state treasurer stating that cash or securities have been deposited with said treasurer as provided in section thirty-four D”.

SECTION 4. Section 34D of said chapter 90 of the General Laws is hereby repealed.

SECTION 5. Section 24A of chapter 93 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the words “sufficient bond” the following:- or acceptable bond documentation

SECTION 6. Section 26 of said chapter 93 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the third and fourth sentences and inserting in place thereof the following sentences:- The bond shall not be accepted unless it or acceptable bond documentation is made accessible to the state treasurer after having been examined and approved by the commissioner of banks. Upon approval by the commissioner of banks, the said bond or acceptable bond documentation shall be accessible to the state treasurer.

SECTION 7. Said chapter 93, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking section 27 and inserting in place thereof the following new section:-

Section 27. The state treasurer shall keep a record open to public inspection of the approved bonds or applicable bond documentation accessible to the treasurer under the preceding section.

SECTION 8. Chapter 148 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking sections 19 to 20B, inclusive, and inserting in place thereof the following sections:-

Section 19. No person shall conduct blasting operations unless such person has applied for and obtained a certificate of competency issued by the marshal. Any person wishing to obtain said certificate shall make application on a form approved by the marshal. A fee set annually by the secretary of administration and finance, pursuant to section 3B of chapter 7, shall accompany said application. The fee shall cover the costs of the application and certificate if issued. No portion of said fee shall be refundable. Upon receipt of said application and fee, the marshal shall arrange for the applicant to be examined as to the applicant's experience and ability to conduct blasting operations. If the applicant is found to be qualified, said applicant shall forthwith be issued a certificate of competency. Said certificate shall be valid throughout the commonwealth for a period not to exceed 24 months from the date of issue. Once issued, said certificate may be renewed after its expiration and without examination, upon payment of a fee as determined by the secretary of administration and finance. However, no certificate may be renewed without examination and fee if said certificate has been in effect in excess of 7 years from the date of original issue. The holder of a certificate of competency whose certificate is lost, misplaced or stolen may obtain a duplicate certificate from the marshal upon payment of a fee as determined by the secretary of administration and finance pursuant to said chapter 7.

Section 20. No person shall conduct any blasting operations in any city or town unless said person has applied for and been issued an explosive user's certificate issued by the marshal and in accordance with the rules and regulations of the board of fire prevention regulations.

No explosive user's certificate shall be issued without the applicant having first obtained and filed with the marshal, a certificate of insurance demonstrating the issuance of a comprehensive general liability insurance policy providing coverage for bodily injury and property damage, with limits of no less than \$1 million per person, \$5 million per occurrence, and \$5 million in the aggregate, for bodily injury, and no less than \$1 million per occurrence, and \$5 million in the aggregate, for property damage for loss, damage or injury which results from the blasting of rock or keeping of explosives. As a continuing condition of maintaining a valid explosive user's certificate, the insurance policy shall be maintained by the holder and kept in force at all times. In the event the required insurance is terminated or expires, the explosive user's certificate will become void until full coverage is restored.

The insurance policy shall be issued by an insurance company authorized to do business in the commonwealth. Each insurance policy shall provide for at least a 30 day notice by certified mail to the marshal as a condition of the policy, of any material change, cancellation or expiration of the policy. The insurance policy shall be in effect for a minimum of one year from the date of the issuance of the explosive user's certificate. The city or town where the blasting is to be done shall be named as additional insureds under the insurance policy.”.

SECTION 9. Said chapter 148, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking sections 40 to 43, inclusive, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

Section 40. No person shall manufacture, keep or store fireworks, in any quantity, except as permitted by the board of fire prevention regulations, in any building or structure unless said

person has applied for and been issued a fireworks users certificate. In addition, no person shall use, discharge, fire off, explode or display fireworks by himself or his agents unless said person has applied for and been issued a fireworks users certificate by the marshal in accordance with the rules and regulations of the board.

No fireworks user's certificate shall be issued without the applicant having first obtained and filed with the marshal, a certificate of insurance demonstrating the issuance of a comprehensive general liability insurance policy providing coverage for bodily injury and property damage, with limits of no less than \$1 million per person, \$2 million per occurrence, and \$2 million in the aggregate, for bodily injury, and no less than \$1 million per occurrence, and \$2 million in the aggregate, for property damage for loss, damage, or injury which results from the keeping, discharging, firing off, exploding or display of fireworks. As a continuing condition of maintaining a valid fireworks user's certificate, the insurance policy shall be maintained by the holder and kept in force at all times. In the event the required insurance is terminated or expires, the fireworks user's certificate will become void until full coverage is restored.

The insurance policy shall be issued by an insurance company authorized to do business in the commonwealth. Each insurance policy shall provide for at least a 30 day notice by certified mail to the marshal as a condition of the policy, of any material change, cancellation or expiration of the policy. The insurance policy shall be in effect for a minimum of one year from the date of the issuance of the fireworks user's certificate.

For purposes of this section, the word "loss" shall include the reasonable expense of a city or town incurred in the extinguishing of fires caused by the discharging, firing off, exploding, displaying or keeping of fireworks."

SECTION 10. Section 4 of chapter 167F of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the third sentence and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- Such person shall make, execute and, through the commissioner, make accessible to the state treasurer a surety bond or acceptable surety bond documentation, cash or securities, in the sum of one hundred thousand dollars.

SECTION 11. Section 2 of chapter 169 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 5 and 6, the words “execute and deliver to the state treasurer a bond” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- execute and, through the commissioner of banks, make accessible to the state treasurer a bond or acceptable bond documentation,

SECTION 12. Section 3 of said chapter 169, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 26 through 28, the words “and the state treasurer and, upon such approval by the state treasurer, it shall be filed in his office. Upon notice of such approval by the state treasurer” and inserting in place thereof the following:- and, upon such approval, the bond or acceptable bond documentation shall be made accessible to the state treasurer. Upon acceptance of the bond by the commissioner

SECTION 13. Section 4 of said chapter 169, as so appearing, is hereby amended by inserting, in line 2, after the words “of such bonds” the following words:- or applicable bond documentation

SECTION 14. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, any cash or securities that have been deposited with the state treasurer pursuant to said section 34D shall be retained for a period of 5 years after the effective date of this act. After such 5 year period, provided the state treasurer has not received actual notice of a claim pending against the applicant or depositor, such cash or securities may be refunded by the state treasurer.

SECTION 15. Not later than 6 months after the effective date of this act, the state treasurer shall, at a minimum, send written notice by mail to the address of record of all depositors or applicants who have cash or securities on deposit with the state treasurer pursuant to said section 34D informing the depositor or applicant of the provisions and effective date of this act.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER	House, No. 3380
TITLE	An Act to strengthen the taxpayer protection act
SPONSORS	Representative David LeBoeuf
HEARING DATE	July 22, 2025
REPORT OUT DATE	September 22, 2025
PRIOR HISTORY	None
SIMILAR MATTERS	S2104 (Sen. Brady—Identical)
CURRENT LAW	Section 53 of chapter 7: Definitions section regarding privatization contracts Section 55 of chapter 7: The state auditor may object and prevent the administration of the privatization contract

SUMMARY

Amends section 53 of chapter 7, by striking and inserting a new definition for “agency,” by inserting language at the end to include school districts and education collaboratives. The language also strikes out and inserts a new definition for “privatization contract” to include “management consulting” which would not be considered a privatization contract.

The bill also inserts a sentence at the end of paragraph (6) of section 54 of chapter 7. Paragraph (6) describes what happens after a bidder is awarded a privatization contract and how the agency will prepare a cost analysis of the transition from public to private. The inserted sentence establishes that if the bidder performs services or work outside of the contract and the cost is more than what was listed in the contract, the payment will not be based on a percentage of revenue that the bidder received from the privatization contract.

Lastly, the bill amends section 55 of chapter 7. A sentence is inserted at the end of subsection (d) that the attorney general may file a civil suit to enforce sections 52 through 55 of chapter 7

regarding privatization contracts. And inserts subsection (e) that prior to renewal the state auditor shall conduct an audit of the privatization contract.

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 3259 FILED ON: 1/17/2025

HOUSE No. 3380

By Representative LeBoeuf of Worcester, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3380) of David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf and others for legislation to further regulate privatization contracts. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)

An Act to strengthen the taxpayer protection act.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 53 of chapter 7 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the definition of “Agency” and inserting in place thereof the following definition:-

“Agency”, an executive office, department, division, board, commission or other office or officer in the executive branch of the government of the commonwealth, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, the Massachusetts Port Authority and the Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority, a school district as defined in section 2 of chapter 70 or an education collaborative as established under section 4E of chapter 40.

SECTION 2. Said section 53 of said chapter 7, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out the definition of “Privatization contract” and inserting in place thereof the following definition:-

“Privatization contract”, an agreement or combination or series of agreements by which a non-governmental person or entity agrees with an agency to provide services, valued at \$500,000, but as of January 1 each year, the amount shall increase to reflect increases in the consumer price index calculated by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics for all urban consumers nationally during the most recent 12 month period for which data are available or more, which are substantially similar to and in lieu of, services theretofore provided, in whole or in part, by regular employees of an agency. Any subsequent agreement, including any agreement resulting from a rebidding of previously privatized service, or any agreement renewing or extending a privatization contract, shall be considered a privatization contract. A contract for information technology services shall not be considered a privatization contract if an employee organization recognized under chapter 150E, as the exclusive representative of an affected employee, as determined by the secretary of administration and finance, agrees to the terms of the contract in writing. An agreement solely to provide legal, planning, engineering or design services shall not be considered a privatization contract.

SECTION 3. Paragraph (6) of section 54 of said chapter 7, as so appearing, is hereby amended by adding the following sentence:-

If the designated bidder proposes to perform any or all of the contract which increases the cost of services or products provided to a resident of the commonwealth, said contract cost shall be increased by the amount of those increased costs to said services or products; provided, however,

that no privatization contract shall permit payment based on a percentage of revenue or fees collected from the privatization contract, including but not limited to, tuition sharing.

SECTION 4. Section 55 of said chapter 7, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out subsection (d) and inserting in place thereof the following 2 subsections:-

(d) The objection of the state auditor pursuant to subsection (a) shall be final and binding on the agency, unless the state auditor thereafter in writing withdraws the objection, stating the specific reasons, based upon a revised certificate by the agency and by the commissioner of administration and upon the state auditor's review thereof. The attorney general may bring a civil action for equitable relief in the superior court to enforce sections 52 through 55 or to prevent or remedy the dismissal, demotion or other action prejudicing any employee as a result of a report of a violation of said sections 52 to 55.

(e) Before the renewal of a privatization contract, the state auditor shall conduct a financial and performance audit of said privatization contract to ensure compliance.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER	House, No. 3384
TITLE	An Act relative to language access and inclusion
SPONSORS	Representatives Adrian Madaro and Carlos González
HEARING DATE	July 22, 2025
REPORT OUT DATE	September 22, 2025
PRIOR HISTORY	(2023-24) H3084: Favorable, referred to House Ways and Means (2021-22) H4872: Favorable, referred to House Ways and Means
SIMILAR MATTERS	S2125 (Sen. DiDomenico—Identical)
CURRENT LAW	Title II

SUMMARY

SECTION 1: Amends Chapter 6 by inserting a new section 223, which creates the office of access and opportunity (OAO) and outlines its structure and duties.

SECTION 2. Inserts a Chapter 6F.

Section 1: The chapter's definitions

Section 2: Communications with the public

- Requires all state agencies to translate vital documents, and notices/materials explaining their services into 11 languages
- Requires that all state agency websites have equally accessible versions of the website in 11 languages

Section 3: Language access plans developed every 2 years.

Section 4: Assessments

- Community needs assessments

- Internal state agency assessments

Section 5: Personnel

- Language access coordinator whose sole role would be to address language access needs and the state agency's compliance with this Act
- Regional language access coordinators may be hired to address the language access needs
- Qualified bilingual or multilingual employees in public contact positions or as interpreters to assist those in such positions, who would fall into one of two tiers:
 - Tier 1 employees should have formal certification, training in interpretation, or sufficient experience with interpreting in the specific subject matter
 - Tier 2 employees would have the skill and capacity to communicate directly with clients regarding routine, or common business matters
- Requires language access coordinators to train all new state agency hires as part of an onboarding process and annually thereafter

Section 6: Creates a language access advisory board, and outlines its mission, composition, and responsibilities

Section 7: Reporting requirements

- Upon implementation of this Act and every 2 years thereafter, the agency shall submit to the office of access and opportunity and the language access advisory board the community needs assessment, language services inventory, and language access plan
- Upon implementation of this Act and every 2 years thereafter, the agency shall submit the language status report to the joint committee on ways and means, the joint committee on state administration and regulatory oversight, the office of access and opportunity, and the language access advisory board
- Upon implementation of this Act and every 2 years thereafter, the agency shall submit a language access database to the office of access and opportunity and the language access advisory board

Section 8: Relief

- Creates the right to commence a civil action for individuals to seek relief in court should a state agency fail to provide language access services
- Allows the MCAD or the Attorney General's office to commence a civil action to seek relief for a violation of this act

Section 9: Office of Access and Opportunity would be required to accept and investigate complaints submitted to their office by individuals who were unable to obtain timely language access services from a state agency.

Section 10: If any law of the Commonwealth prescribes stronger protections, the services required of state agencies in this Act shall be subject to the stronger protections.

SECTION 3: Implementation of this Act will be in phases, starting with MassHealth.

SECTION 4: This Act shall take effect upon passage.

HOUSE No. 3384

By Representatives Madaro of Boston and González of Springfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3384) of Adrian C. Madaro, Carlos González and others relative to state agency language access and inclusion. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—————
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**
—————

An Act relative to language access and inclusion.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

[Legislative Statement]

Consistent with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order No. 13166 and federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof, this legislation seeks to codify and expand federally enacted protections for Limited English Proficient (LEP) and deaf or hard of hearing persons to receive equal access to services, programs, and activities from public-facing state agencies of the Commonwealth.

SECTION 1. Chapter 6 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 222 the following section:-

Section 223. The office of access and opportunity.

(a) There shall be within the office of the governor an office of access and opportunity (the “OAO”) to ensure ready access to the status of and advise on the work conducted by the OAO.

(b) The OAO shall be led by a deputy chief, access and opportunity (the “deputy chief”), who shall be appointed by the governor and directly report to the governor’s chief of staff. The deputy chief shall advise the governor and the cabinet and work to foster within state government non-discrimination and equal opportunity for all irrespective of race, color, age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, creed, ancestry, national origin, disability, veteran or active military status (including Vietnam-era veterans), or socio-economic background.

(c) There shall be a steering committee on access and opportunity (the “steering committee”) which the deputy chief will chair and convene regularly for advice on the state of access and opportunity across the executive branch and how best to achieve goals of the OAO. The steering committee shall include: the chief human resources officer, human resources division; assistant secretary, operational services division; executive director of the Massachusetts supplier diversity office; director of office of diversity and equal opportunity; director of Massachusetts office on disability; commissioner, division of capital asset management and maintenance; director, compliance unit, division of capital asset management and maintenance; the chief operating officer, Massachusetts Department of Transportation; deputy director, office on diversity and civil rights, Massachusetts Department of Transportation; secretary of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development or their designee; secretary of the Executive Office of Veterans’ Services or their designee; and representative(s) designated by the Secretary of the Executive Office of Education.

(d) The deputy chief shall have the following responsibilities:

(1) collaborate with and maximize relevant initiatives, work and potential of all existing executive branch agencies, offices and resources with the explicit goal of:

(i) increasing the total number of and dollar volume earned by MBEs, WBEs, and DBEs contracting with or doing business for the state; and

(ii) maintaining or increasing the number of minorities, veterans and individuals with disabilities who are state employees;

(2) develop with partnering agencies and offices, in consultation with the Steering Committee:

(i) an integrated body of policies and actions that reflect best practices and remove barriers to advance non-discrimination and equity in access to and opportunity in employment, procurement and the provision of services within state government;

(ii) ideas on how best to implement and incentivize compliance with such policies and procedures; and

(iii) performance metrics focused on outcomes, such as increasing the total number of and dollar volume earned by MBEs, WBEs, DBEs contracting with or doing business for the state; and maintaining or increasing the number of minority, veterans and individuals with disabilities who are state employees;

(3) convene meetings of key offices, individuals and external stakeholders as needed to accomplish specified objectives, resolve issues, and make and implement recommendations;

(4) identify state laws and regulations that obstruct or frustrate the state's ability to provide within its own operations equity in access and opportunity for all persons;

(5) serve as a liaison to pertinent commissions, councils, task forces and offices throughout state government as needed to accomplish and advance the OAO's goals; and

(6) develop for adoption administrative orders and bulletins to further the OAO's goals, and prepare such other reports necessary to keep the Governor appropriately apprised of the work of the OAO.

(e) All state agencies shall provide assistance to the OAO by sharing information and expertise, as requested.

SECTION 2. The General Laws are hereby amended by inserting after chapter 6E the following chapter:

CHAPTER 6F.

LANGUAGE ACCESS AND INCLUSION.

Section 1. Definitions. For the purposes of this Act, the following terms shall have the following meanings—

“Auxiliary aids and services” mean items, equipment or services that provide effective communication access for persons with communication disorders including but not limited to persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, late deafened or blind.

“Culturally competent” means having a set of behaviors, attitudes and policies that enables effective work in cross-cultural situations which respects and responds to an individual person's culture and language, in a nonjudgmental and supportive manner, considering the service recipient as an individual and not making assumptions based on perceived or actual membership in any group or class.

“Equal access” means to be informed of, participate in, and benefit from public programs or services offered by a public-facing state agency, at a level equal to English proficient persons.

“Language access plan” is an administrative blueprint that defines the obligations and action plan of a public-facing state agency to comply with this Act. The plan shall outline all policies, procedures, and guidance enacted to ensure the provision of language access services as a constitutive element of equal access to state benefits, services, and activities. The plan shall also establish deadlines by which remedial or proactive actions to ensure language access will be taken, identify personnel responsible for implementation of the plan and establish priorities relative to the implementation of these plans.

“Language access services” means oral language services and written translation services, including auxiliary aids and services.

“Limited English proficient” or “LEP” are persons whose primary language is not English or who have a limited ability to speak, read, write or understand English.

“Machine translation” is when computer software is utilized for the automated translation of a text from one language to another and vice versa without human intervention.

“Oral interpretation” means the act of listening, understanding and analyzing a spoken message in one language and re-expressing that message faithfully, accurately and objectively in another language and vice versa, enabling communication between two or more persons who do not speak one another’s languages.

“Oral language services” means the various methods of providing verbal information and interpretation through staff interpreters, bilingual or multilingual staff, telephone interpreter services, or private interpreter services.

“Outside service providers” include, but are not limited to, organizations or other persons that formally or informally, through direct or in-kind compensation, contracts, provides, or

administers services which the relevant public-facing state agency is required to provide or requires, recommends or refers its clients to utilize.

“Primary language” means the language in which an LEP person can most effectively and comfortably communicate.

“Public contact position” means a position determined by the public-facing state agency to be one that includes meeting, contacting and dealing with the public in the performance of the agency's functions.

“Public-facing state agency” means a Massachusetts executive office, department, or division thereof that provides assistance, services or information to the public. Any state agency included in the implementation schedule of this Act shall be identified as a “public-facing state agency” or when deemed as such under Section 9(a)(6) of this Act.

“Qualified bilingual employee” means a staff person who is proficient in both the English language and a non-English language. Qualified bilingual employees may be categorized as “Tier 1 Bilingual Employees” or “Tier 2 Bilingual Employees”.

“Qualified interpreter” is a person who is fluent in both the English language and a non-English language and who, by certification, training or experience, is able to (1) perform consecutive interpretation; (2) maintain the tone, style, and complex meaning of speech from one language to another and vice versa; (3) convey cultural nuances; and (4) remain impartial in all interpreted interactions.

“Qualified multilingual employee” means a staff person who is proficient in the English language and more than one non-English language. Qualified multilingual employees may be categorized as “Tier 1 Multilingual Employees” or “Tier 2 Multilingual Employees”.

“Qualified translator” means a person who is fluent in writing, reading and proofreading in both the English language and a non-English language and who, by certification, training or experience is able to (1) render a text from one language into another language and vice versa; (2) maintain the tone, style and complex meaning of the original text from one language to another and vice versa; (3) convey cultural nuances; and (4) remain impartial in the translation process.

“Vital document” means a document or communication, in print or digital form, containing information that, if not provided accurately or in a timely manner, affects a person’s rights or access to, retention in, denial or termination of services, benefits or programs, including, but not limited to, applications, consent forms; complaint forms; intake forms; informational material on eligibility for benefits; notices; requests for documentation or information; documents that must be provided by law; and notices regarding the availability of free language assistance services for LEP persons.

“Written translation” means the rendering of a written text from one language to an equivalent written text of another language.

Section 2. Communications with the public.

(a) A public-facing state agency shall provide equal access to services, programs, and activities serving limited English proficient and deaf or hard of hearing persons by the provision of the following services:

(1) Oral interpretation and auxiliary aids and services

(i) A public-facing state agency shall provide timely, culturally competent oral language services to all LEP persons or auxiliary aids and services to deaf or hard of hearing persons who seek to access state services, programs, or activities or those of outside service providers.

(ii) A public-facing state agency shall notify every person of their right to timely oral interpretation in their primary language or auxiliary aids and services, regardless of their status as an inquirer into, applicant for, recipient or beneficiary of a state service, program, or information.

(iii) A public-facing state agency shall utilize qualified interpreters or Tier 1 bilingual or multilingual employees to provide oral language services or auxiliary aids and services.

(iv) A public-facing state agency may contract with telephone-based interpretation services or community-based organizations to provide interpretation to LEP and deaf or hard of hearing persons or utilize Tier 1 bilingual or multilingual employees.

(v) A public-facing state agency that contracts or utilizes an outside service provider to fulfill the agency's responsibilities to the public shall ensure that the outside service provider implements the requirements of Section 2(a)(1) of this Act.

(2) Written translation

(i) A public-facing state agency shall issue vital documents in the following languages: Arabic, Cape Verdean Creole, Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), French, Haitian Creole, Khmer, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Vietnamese and any other languages deemed necessary by the agency's assessments required under Section 4 of this Act.

(ii) A public-facing state agency shall translate all notices and materials that explain its services in the languages stated in Section 2(a)(2)(i) of this Act..

(iii) A LEP person whose primary language is not required to be translated into writing under Section 2(a)(2)(i) of this Act is entitled to the oral interpretation of vital documents, notices and materials into their primary language.

(iv) A public-facing state agency shall utilize qualified translators or Tier 1 bilingual or multilingual employees, to translate vital documents.

A) State agencies shall not solely rely on machine translation to translate vital documents.

B) State agencies shall have qualified translators or Tier 1 bilingual or multilingual employees verify all translations of vital documents generated through machine translation before such documents are published, conveyed, sent, or posted.

(v) A public-facing state agency that contracts or utilizes an outside service provider to fulfill the agency's responsibilities to the public shall ensure that the outside service provider implements the requirements of Section (2)(a)(2) of this Act.

(3) Websites

(i) If a public-facing state agency maintains one or more websites for use by the public, the agency shall provide the website in the following languages: Arabic, Cape Verdean Creole, Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), French, Haitian Creole, Khmer, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Vietnamese and any other languages deemed necessary by the agency's assessments required under Section 4 of this Act.

A) The state agency shall ensure that its websites and online application materials are mobile compatible and that they satisfy or exceed the official Federal Plain Language Guidelines, March 2011, Rev. 1, May 2011 for the Plain Writing Act of 2010.

(ii) Agencies shall not solely rely on machine translation to translate its websites.

A) A public-facing state agency shall utilize qualified translators or Tier 1 bilingual or multilingual employees to verify the translation of its websites for accuracy.

(iii) A public-facing state agency that maintains one or more websites for use by the public shall (1) provide forms and instructions for submitting complaints of alleged violations of this Act; (2) link such and instructions on the homepage of the state agency's website; and (3) translate all such forms and instructions into the languages listed in Section 2(a)(3)(i) of this Act.

Section 3. Language access plan.

(a) A public-facing state agency shall develop a language access plan every 2 years based on community and agency assessments required by Section 4 of this Act, to guide the provision of language access services to LEP and deaf or hard of hearing persons. When drafting the language access plan, a public-facing state agency shall ensure that:

(1) a summary of the rights of LEP and deaf or hard of hearing persons to oral interpretation or auxiliary aids and services, respectively, and the public-facing state agency's obligations to protect these rights are detailed at the outset of the language access plan;

(2) the mandated translated languages are listed, as required by Section 2(a)(2)(i) and Section 2(a)(3)(i);

(3) a plan of action is instituted for the implementation of all provisions of Sections 2, 4, 5 and 7 of this Act;

(4) the plan is made publicly available in the translated languages required by Section 2(a)(2) on the main page of the public-facing state agency's website and in its central and local offices; and

(5) a complaint process is developed with complaint forms that are publicly accessible on the main page of the public-facing state agency's website and in its central and local offices.

Section 4. Assessments.

(a) Community needs assessment.

(1) A public-facing state agency shall conduct a community needs assessment every 2 years that compiles data on the language composition of the agency's eligible populations, including American Sign Language. The community needs assessment shall also collect data on the engagement and interaction of eligible populations with the public-facing state agency. The agency shall determine:

(i) the percentage of the eligible service population who are LEP or deaf or hard of hearing;

(ii) the primary languages used by LEP or deaf or hard of hearing persons in all geographic areas the agency serves its eligible populations ;

(iii) the frequency with which the agency provides services to LEP or deaf or hard of hearing persons;

(iv) all points of contact whereby the eligible populations can engage with the public-facing state agency; and

(v) all potential language or language-related barriers that may arise in the engagement of eligible populations with the public-facing state agency.

(b) Internal state agency assessments.

(1) A public-facing state agency shall conduct a language services inventory every 2 years to identify available language services and staff to serve LEP persons and deaf or hard of hearing persons. A public-facing state agency shall:

(i) determine the number of qualified bilingual or multilingual employees in public contact positions in each central and local office, who can provide linguistically, culturally and technically proficient language access services. This data shall be disaggregated by language and by the Tier 1 and Tier 2 classification required by Section 5(b)(3) of this Act.

(ii) detail the language access services, including technology and equipment, available within the state's resources or under state contracts, including in-person interpretation, telephone interpretation, video interpretation, translation and auxiliary aids and services.

(2) A public-facing state agency shall generate a language access status report every 2 years of each of its statewide and local offices evaluating the agency's capacities in serving LEP and deaf or hard of hearing persons. This status report shall include the following:

(i) a calculation of the percentage of LEP and deaf or hard of hearing persons presently served by the public-facing state agency's central and local offices, categorized by primary language;

(ii) a determination of whether the current oral language and written translation services are effectively meeting the language needs of LEP persons served by the public-facing state agency;

(iii) a determination of whether the current auxiliary aids and services are effectively meeting the language needs of deaf or hard of hearing persons served by the public-facing state agency;

(iv) a description of the agency's procedures for identifying vital documents for translation;

(v) an evaluation of whether contracted interpreter services are effectively meeting the language needs of LEP and deaf or hard of hearing persons;

(vi) an evaluation of operational protocols for staff to effectively access language access services as outlined in Section 5(c) of this Act;

(vii) an evaluation of staff proficiency to effectively and appropriately utilize language access services as outlined in Section 5(c) of this Act;

(viii) a description of any language access training the public-facing state agency provides to its staff to ensure the agency is effectively serving provision of services to LEP and deaf or hard of hearing persons individuals, including the frequency of training, and date of most recent training;

(ix) a determination of whether the allocation and assignment of qualified bilingual and multilingual employees to central and local offices is effectively meeting the identified language needs in those offices;

(x) an evaluation of agency procedures for recruiting and retaining qualified bilingual or multilingual employees in central and local offices; and

(xi) a description of the public-facing state agency's procedures for receiving and resolving complaints regarding language access as well as the number of complaints received.

(c) The assessments in this Section shall be completed prior to the drafting of the language access plan as required by Section 3 of this Act. The results of these assessments shall inform all content, policies, recommendations and guidance in the language access plan.

Section 5. Personnel.

(a) Language access coordinator.

(1) A public-facing state agency shall designate a language access coordinator whose sole responsibility on a full-time basis shall be to address language access needs and the public-facing state agency's compliance with this Act, in consultation with the language access advisory board established in Section 6 of this Act.

(2) Language access coordinators shall maintain a centralized, electronic, searchable language access database of the following:

(i) all formal and informal requests for language access services and the status of those requests;

(ii) all language access-related complaints, including complaints of language discrimination and/or disability discrimination in cases of the deaf or hard of hearing;

- (iii) the status and progress of all such requests and complaints;
- (iv) the resolution of all such requests and complaints, including decisions by the regional and central offices;
- (v) the reasons for full and partial denials of requests for language services; and
- (vi) the office(s) handling the relevant case or request for service.

(3) A public-facing state agency may also designate regional language access coordinators to address the language access needs of relevant regions and train the regions' staff on compliance with this Act.

(i) Regional language access coordinators shall report to the language access coordinator of their respective public-facing state agency's central office.

(b) Staffing.

(1) A public-facing state agency shall employ a sufficient number of qualified bilingual or multilingual employees in public contact positions or as interpreters to assist employees in public contact positions, to ensure the provision of information and services in a person's primary language.

(2) A bilingual or multilingual staff member shall not provide interpretation in adversarial proceedings when the public-facing state agency that employs the bilingual or multilingual staff member is a party to the proceedings.

(3) A bilingual or multilingual staff member may provide language services to LEP and deaf or hard of hearing persons, in accordance with their skill level as determined by the language access coordinator. A state agency shall classify bilingual or multilingual employees into one of two tiers, and shall only provide interpretation services in accordance with that tier as follows:

(i) Tier 1 bilingual or multilingual employee: Tier 1 employees must have formal certification, training, or sufficient experience in interpretation in the specific subject matter. If the employer does not regularly employ a person that may be classified as a Tier 1 employee, the employer must hire a third-party contractor to fulfill the need for interpretation services. Tier 1 employees shall agree to abide by the ethical and confidentiality requirements for interpreters and translators in accordance with the American Translators Association Code of Ethics and Professional Practice.

(ii) Tier 2 bilingual or multilingual employee: Tier 2 employees have the language proficiency to communicate directly with LEP or deaf or hard of hearing persons regarding routine or common business matters. Tier 2 employees shall not serve as interpreters or translators.

(4) An employee of a public-facing state agency who regularly acts as an interpreter or translator shall be reasonably compensated for that additional work.

(5) A public-facing state agency shall ensure that all processes and procedures for staff to request language access services require minimal approval or documentation and are not overly burdensome.

(c) Training.

(1) Language access coordinators shall train employees about all processes and procedures needed to effectively obtain and utilize all language access services mandated by Section 2 of this Act as part of an employee's onboarding process and on an annual basis thereafter.

(i) Training shall include (1) instruction on process and procedures for requesting language access service, (2) guidance on how to effectively work with interpreters or translators and (3) explanation of procedures for reporting deficiencies to language access services.

(2) A public-facing state agency shall ensure the provision of language access training for an outside service provider.

Section 6. Language access advisory board.

(a) Mission, organization and institution.

(1) There shall be a language access advisory board to provide guidance and technical assistance to public-facing state agencies in order to ensure equal access for LEP and deaf or hard of hearing persons to services, programs, and activities offered by a public-facing state agency.

(2) The board shall be co-chaired by a staff member from the office of access and opportunity, and one other member of the advisory board elected by the board.

(3) The members of the advisory board shall be appointed within 6 months of the effective date of this Act, and shall serve 4-year terms. Members whose terms have expired may serve until a successor is appointed.

(4) The board shall meet no less than 4 times annually.

(b) Composition.

(1) The language access advisory board shall include: 3 members appointed by the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition from prevalent LEP populations within Massachusetts, as determined by the most recent United States Census data; 1 member appointed by the Disability Law Center from the deaf or hard of hearing community; 1 member appointed by the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute; 1 member appointed by the Massachusetts Appleseed Center for Law & Justice; 1 member appointed by the Massachusetts Language Access Coalition; 1 member appointed by Greater Boston Legal Services; 1 member appointed by the Justice Center of Southeast Massachusetts; 1 member appointed by MetroWest

Legal Services; 1 member appointed by the Central West Justice Center; and 1 member appointed by the Northeast Justice Center.

(c) Advisory board responsibilities.

(1) The advisory board shall support public-facing state agencies to achieve compliance with this Act by:

(i) providing guidance and technical assistance to the state agencies;

(ii) advising language access coordinators of public-facing state agencies in the development and review of language access plans;

(iii) reviewing all assessments and surveys from state agencies as required by Section 4 of this Act; and

(iv) providing recommendations to state agencies to reduce identified barriers for the LEP and deaf or hard of hearing persons.

(2) The language access advisory board, in formulating its recommendations, shall take into account the best practices and policies in other states and jurisdictions, and may undertake further steps to help state agencies achieve compliance with this Act.

Section 7. Reporting requirements.

(a) Upon a public-facing state agency's full implementation of this Act as required by Section 11 and every 2 years thereafter, the agency shall submit to the office of access and opportunity and the language access advisory board the following:

(1) the community needs assessment as stated in Section 4(a)(1);

(2) the language services inventory as stated in Section 4(b)(1); and

(3) the language access plan as stated in Section 3.

(b) Upon a public-facing state agency's full implementation of this Act as required by Section 11 and every 2 years thereafter, the agency shall submit the language access status report required by Section 4(b)(2) of this Act to the joint committee on ways and means, the joint committee on state administration and regulatory oversight, the office of access and opportunity and the language access advisory board.

(c) Upon a public-facing state agency's full implementation of this Act as required by Section 11 and every year thereafter, the agency shall submit the language access database as outlined in Section 5(a)(2) to the office of access and opportunity and the language access advisory board.

(d) A public-facing state agency shall ensure, in reporting of all materials outlined in this Section, that the following standards are maintained:

(1) all data is disaggregated and cross-tabulated by primary language, disability status, race, ethnicity, age, gender and low-income status;

(2) all materials are made publicly available in the list of translated languages required by Section 2(a)(2);

(3) all materials are presented in plain language; and

(4) all data is presented in a manner that protects the privacy of all surveyed persons.

Section 8. Relief.

(a) Any person claiming to be aggrieved by a public-facing state agency for failure in the provision of language access services in order to provide equal access to services, programs, and activities of a public-facing state agency according to the provisions of this Act shall have the right to initiate and prosecute a civil action in the district, superior, housing, probate and family,

Boston municipal or land court department for injunctive and other appropriate equitable relief or an award of actual and consequential damages.

(1) Should the person or persons prevail, they shall be entitled to an award of actual and consequential damages, that is the costs of the litigation including expert witness fees, reasonable attorneys' fees in an amount to be fixed by the court, and prejudgment and post judgment interest.

(b) The Massachusetts commission against discrimination may commence a civil action to seek relief for a violation of this Act.

(c) The attorney general may also commence a civil action to seek relief for a violation of this Act.

Section 9. Office of access and opportunity.

(a) The office of access and opportunity within the governor's office shall have the following responsibilities:

(1) accept and investigate complaints submitted to the office of access and opportunity by persons who have been unable to obtain timely language access services in any public-facing state agency;

(2) provide copies of all complaints annually as required by Section 5(a)(2) of this Act to the language access advisory board;

(3) eliminate the language access barrier when an agency does not provide equal access using informal methods, including conference, conciliation, mediation, or persuasion. Where the language access barrier cannot be eliminated by informal methods, the office of access and opportunity shall submit written compliance requirements to the public-facing state agency. The

office of access and opportunity may request the public-facing state agency to notify it within a specified time of any action taken on its requirements, and may require a public-facing state agency to increase the frequency of reporting required by Section 9(a)(2) of this Act every six months, as needed, or as requested by the language access advisory board;

(4) create, in consultation with the language access advisory board, multilingual signage informing LEP and deaf or hard of hearing persons of their right to free oral language services or auxiliary aids and services, for dissemination to state agencies

(5) shall promulgate regulations no later than 1 year after the effective date of this Act after receiving input from stakeholders and the language access advisory board; and

(6) identify additional state agencies that shall be subject to this Act upon its determination in consultation with the language access advisory board.

(i) This determination shall be made:

A) in the 5th year following the enactment of this Act and every 5 years thereafter or at the discretion of the office of access and opportunity in consultation with the language access advisory board; and,

B) by conducting an inventory and evaluation of newly formed and existing state agencies' engagement with the public.

Section 10. Conflicting law.

(a) In the event any law of the Commonwealth prescribes stronger protections, the services, programs and activities of public-facing state agencies required by this Act shall be subject to the stronger protections.

SECTION 3. Public-facing state agencies shall comply with the requirements set forth in Sections 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 of SECTION 2 of this Act in the manner established by the following implementation schedule:

(a) On or before the second year after enactment, there shall be implementation by each of the following public-facing state agencies and their divisions thereof:

(1) MassHealth;

(2) the department of children and families;

(3) the department of transitional assistance;

(4) the department of unemployment assistance; and

(5) all departments, divisions and offices within the executive office of housing and livable communities that administer emergency shelter assistance, rental assistance, housing subsidies or other housing benefits to state residents.

(b) On or before the third year after enactment, there shall be implementation by each of the following public-facing state agencies and their divisions thereof:

(1) the department of early education and care

(2) the registry of motor vehicles;

(3) the department of public health; and

(4) the department of mental health.

(c) On or before the fourth year after enactment, there shall be implementation by each of the following public-facing state agencies and their divisions thereof:

- (1) the child support enforcement division of the department of revenue;
- (2) the department of elementary and secondary education;
- (3) the Massachusetts office on disability;
- (4) the department of public utilities; and
- (5) MassDigital.

(d) On or before the fifth year after enactment, there shall be implementation by each of the following public-facing state agencies and their divisions thereof:

- (1) the department of revenue;
- (2) the executive office of health and human services, specifically,
 - (i) the department of youth services,
 - (ii) the department of developmental services,
 - (iii) the executive office of elder affairs,
 - (iv) MassAbility,
 - (v) the office for refugees and immigrants;
- (3) the executive office of labor and workforce development, specifically,
 - (i) the department of family and medical leave,
 - (ii) the department of industrial accidents; and
- (4) the executive office of public safety and security, specifically,
 - (i) the Massachusetts department of correction,

- (ii) the department of fire services,
- (iii) the Massachusetts state police,
- (iv) the Massachusetts emergency management agency,
- (v) the state 911 department.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon passage.

**Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight
Bill Summary**

BILL NUMBER	House, No. 3387
TITLE	An Act relative to expedited referrals by legislators

SPONSORS Representative Paul McMurtry

HEARING DATE July 22, 2025

REPORT OUT DATE September 22, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY (2023-24) H3089; Accompanied study order, H.4675,
(2021-22) H3202; Accompanied study order, H4969

SIMILAR MATTERS None

CURRENT LAW Chapter 6, Section 219: Commission on community behavioral health promotion and prevention

SUMMARY

This bill would add new language to Chapter 6, Section 219 of the Massachusetts General Laws

- Requires state agencies to share personal information about a constituent with a state legislator or their authorized staff when contacted on the constituent’s behalf, but only as needed to provide assistance.
- Prohibits agencies from requiring a release authorization unless federal law mandates it, streamlining access for constituent services.

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 2570 FILED ON: 1/16/2025

HOUSE No. 3387

By Representative McMurtry of Dedham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3387) of Paul McMurtry relative to the release of information to state legislators by state agencies. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3089 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—————
In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)
—————

An Act relative to expedited referrals by legislators.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Chapter 6 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

Section 219. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, a state agency shall disclose to a state legislator or an authorized staff person of a state legislator, who is reaching out to the agency on behalf of a constituent, personal information about the constituent to the extent necessary for the state legislator or authorized staff person to provide assistance on the behalf of the constituent; provided, however, that the state agency shall not require an authorization for release of information from the constituent or state legislator unless otherwise required by federal law.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER	House, No. 3393
TITLE	An Act relative to restricted vital records
SPONSORS	Representative Michael J. Moran
HEARING DATE	July 22, 2025

REPORT OUT DATE September 22, 2025
PRIOR HISTORY (2021-22) H.3207: Favorable, referred to House Steering
SIMILAR MATTERS None
CURRENT LAW Chapter 46, Section 2A: Disclosure of information about vital statistics; conditions

SUMMARY

This bill would modernize statutory language regarding vital records provisions in Chapter 46, Section 2A of the Massachusetts General Laws, by removing references to “children born out of wedlock” in lines 1 and 4.

This legislation shall take effect immediately upon passage.

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 3612 FILED ON: 1/17/2025

HOUSE No. 3393

By Representative Moran of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3393) of Michael J. Moran relative to removing certain accessibility restrictions on public records. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)

An Act relative to restricted vital records.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 46 Section 2A of the General Laws is hereby amended by deleting the following words in section 2A: -

In line 1 – delete “children born out of wedlock or” and

In line 4 – delete “or those of persons born out of wedlock,”

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER	House, No. 3400
TITLE	An Act prohibiting the use of ratepayer funds for utility lobbying, promotions, or perks
SPONSORS	Representatives Steven Owens and Jennifer Balinsky Armini
HEARING DATE	July 22, 2025
REPORT OUT DATE	September 22, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY	None
SIMILAR MATTERS	None
CURRENT LAW	Chapter 164, Section 33A: Promotional or political advertising expenditures for the manufacture and sale of gas and electricity

SUMMARY

This bill would strike section 33A of chapter 164 and replace it with new language that expands restrictions on utility cost recovery and establishes annual compliance reporting requirements for gas and electric companies.

SECTION 33A:

- Amends the definition of “advertising” to include expenses for research, analysis, and planning related to promoting the sale of gas, electricity, and energy, excluding consumer education, safety notices, legal compliance, emergency communications, and rate schedule information from the restriction
 - Adds language clarifying that any communication containing promotional or political advertising is considered advertising in its entirety.
- Inserts new subsections (b)–(e) to prohibit gas and electric companies from recovering certain expenses through consumer rates, unless explicitly authorized by the Department
 - Subsections (b) and (c):
 - ♣ Specifically bar cost recovery for: business or trade association dues; charitable contributions; lobbying and political donations; good will marketing; litigation aimed at influencing laws or regulations; services not regulated by the Department of Public Utilities (DPU); board-related travel and entertainment; use of company aircraft; investor relations; and costs related to appeals or participation in contested DPU proceedings.
 - Subsection (d):
 - ♣ Requires annual utilities report submissions to DPU by March 1 itemizing prohibited expenses and identifying vendors, affiliates, employees, billing amounts, and purposes of each expense.
 - ♣ Disallows recovery of costs associated with preparing this compliance report
 - Subsection (e)
 - ♣ Empowers DPU and the Office of Ratepayer Advocacy to monitor compliance, assess penalties equal to improperly recorded expenses, and order refunds with interest.
 - ♣ Permits the Department of Public Utilities to distribute collected penalties as rebates to ratepayers or to fund enforcement efforts

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 1883 FILED ON: 1/15/2025

HOUSE No. 3400

By Representatives Owens of Watertown and Armini of Marblehead, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3400) of Steven Owens, Kristin E. Kassner and others relative to prohibiting the use of ratepayer funds for utility lobbying, promotions, or perks. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—————
In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)
—————

An Act prohibiting the use of ratepayer funds for utility lobbying, promotions, or perks.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Chapter 164 of the general laws is hereby amended by striking out section 33A and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

Section 33A. (a) No gas or electric company regulated by the department under this chapter may recover from any ratepayer of such company any direct or indirect expenditure by such company for promotional or political advertising as defined in this section.

For the purposes of this section, the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings:—

"Advertising", the commercial use by a utility of any media, including newspaper, printed matter, radio, and television, in order to transmit a message to a substantial number of members of the public or to such utility's consumers, including any costs associated with research, analysis, preparation, planning, or any other related costs identified by the department as related to public communication whose purpose is to promote the sale or consumption of natural gas, electricity, or other thermal energy, unless such advertising is specifically approved or ordered by the department.

"Political advertising", any advertising for the purpose of influencing public opinion with respect to legislative, administrative, or electoral matters, or with respect to any controversial issue of public importance.

"Promotional advertising", any advertising for the purpose of encouraging any person to select or use the service or additional service of a utility regulated by the department, or the selection or installation of any appliance or equipment designed to use such utility's service.

For the purposes of this section, the terms "political advertising" and "promotional advertising" shall not include advertising which informs consumers of any utility on how they can conserve energy, reduce peak demand for energy, or other services, or otherwise use the services of any utility in a cost-efficient manner; is required by federal or state laws or regulations; informs consumers regarding service interruptions, safety measures, or emergency conditions; concerns employment opportunities with a utility; or relates to any explanation or justification of existing or proposed rate schedules, or notification of hearings thereon which informs consumers of and stimulates the use of products or services which are subject to direct competition from products or services of entities not regulated by the department or any other government agency. A communication shall be considered advertising, promotional advertising, or political advertising if any portion of the communication is advertising, promotional advertising, or political advertising as defined herein.

(b) No gas or electric company regulated by the department shall recover through rates any direct or indirect cost associated with: (i) membership, dues, sponsorships, or contributions to any entity incorporated under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, including business or trade associations; (ii) charitable giving expenses, including contributions in cash or other quantifiable value to organizations qualified under section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended; (iii) executive or legislative lobbying, as those terms are defined in section 39 of chapter 3, or soliciting others to engage in executive or legislative lobbying, including any costs for activities associated with lobbying such as policy research, analysis, preparation, and planning undertaken in support of lobbying; (iv) contributions to political candidates, campaign committees, issue committees, or independent expenditure committees or other political expenses; (v) institutional or good will advertising, which is primarily designed to improve the image of the company or the industry; (vi) litigation

to influence, modify, or repeal existing federal, state or local regulations, legislation or ordinances; (vii) any costs, including marketing, administration, customer service, or other costs, for products or services not regulated by the department; (viii) tax penalties or fines issued against such company; (ix) travel, lodging, entertainment, gifts or food and beverage expenses for such company's board of directors and officers or the board of directors and officers of the parent of such company; (x) any owned, leased or chartered aircraft for such company's board of directors and officers or the board of directors and officers of the parent of such company; or (xi) investor relations.

(c) No gas or electric company regulated by the department shall recover through rates its direct or indirect costs associated with its attendance in, participation in, preparation for, or appeal of any contested proceeding conducted before the department. Such costs shall include, but need not be limited to, attorneys' fees, fees to engage expert witnesses or consultants, the portion of employee salaries associated with such attendance, participation, preparation or appeal of a contested proceeding and related costs identified by the department.

(d) On or before March 1, and annually thereafter, each gas or electric company regulated by the department shall report to the department a list of expenses from the previous calendar year to ensure such company's compliance with this section. Such report shall include, but need not be limited to: (i) a list of all outside services or vendors paid by such company; (ii) an itemized list of all expenses associated with activities described in subsections (a), (b), (c) for which recovery is prohibited by this section, including expenses made to third-party vendors, affiliates of such company, subsidiaries or parent of such company, or such company's employees in the form of compensation; (iii) for each itemized expense associated with activities described in subsections (a), (b), (c), for which recovery is prohibited by this section, the billing amount, date, identity of payee, and an explanation of the expense sufficient to describe its purpose; (iv) the job title,

portion of salary, and expenses of any employees of such company, or any affiliates or parent of such company, for performed work associated with the activities described in subsections (a), (b), (c), for which recovery is prohibited by this section; (v) in the case of an expense associated with activities described in subsections (a), (b), (c) for which recovery is prohibited by this section, made to a third-party vendor by a centralized service company, parent of such company, or other corporate affiliate of such company, the identity of that third-party vendor; and (vi) any other itemized information deemed relevant by the department.

No gas or electric company regulated by the department shall recover through rates any costs associated with the preparation of such report.

(e) The department and the office of ratepayer advocacy established pursuant to section 11E of chapter 12 shall monitor and investigate compliance and noncompliance with this section. If the department determines that a gas or electric company regulated by the department improperly recorded an expense for which recovery is prohibited by this section, the department shall assess a non-recoverable penalty against such company in an amount that is not less than the total amount of costs improperly recorded. In addition to assessing a non-recoverable penalty against a company pursuant to this subsection, the department shall order such company to refund the amount improperly recovered, plus interest, to customers. For each penalty assessed and collected from any such company pursuant to this section, a portion of the penalty, as determined by the department, may be distributed to ratepayers through a rebate, or distributed to the department and the office of ratepayer advocacy for the purpose of increasing resources for enforcing this section.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER	House, No. 3405
TITLE	An Act establishing permanent standard time within the Commonwealth to promote sleep and health
SPONSORS	Representative Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.
HEARING DATE	July 22, 2025
REPORT OUT DATE	September 22, 2025
PRIOR HISTORY	(2023-24) H.3103; Accompanied study order, H.4675
SIMILAR MATTERS	None
CURRENT LAW	Chapter 4, Section 10: Daylight saving time

SUMMARY

SECTION 1: Establishes permanent standard time for Massachusetts

- Amends Chapter 4, Section 10 of the Massachusetts General Laws to declare permanent standard time as the official time in the Commonwealth, exempting Massachusetts from observing Daylight Saving Time under the federal Uniform Time Act.
- Applies to all government actions, legal timeframes, public schools, state institutions, and contracts executed within Massachusetts.

SECTION 2: Links enactment to regional agreement

- Takes effect only if Connecticut, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont pass similar laws establishing year-round Eastern Standard Time.
- Implementation requires a mutually agreed-upon start date by all five participating states.

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 800 FILED ON: 1/13/2025

HOUSE No. 3405

By Representative Puppolo of Springfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3405) of Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr., and others for legislation to establish standard time as the permanent time of the Commonwealth. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—————
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**
—————

An Act establishing permanent standard time within the Commonwealth to promote sleep and health.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 4 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out section 10 and inserting in place thereof the following section: -

Section 10. The standard time within the commonwealth shall be permanent standard time and shall be exempt from the advancement of time as provided by the federal Uniform Time Act of

1966, 15 U.S.C. section 260(a). This section shall apply: to all laws, statutes, orders, decrees, rules and regulations relating to the time of performance of any act by any officer or department of the commonwealth, or of any county, city, town or district thereof, or any other political subdivision thereof; to all laws, statutes, orders, decrees, rules and regulations relating to the time in which any rights shall accrue or determine, or within which any act shall or shall not be performed by any person subject to the jurisdiction of the commonwealth; in all the public schools and in all institutions of the commonwealth, or of any county, city, town or district thereof, or any other political subdivision thereof; and in all contracts or choses in action made or to be performed in the commonwealth.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect: (i) upon enactment by law of a permanent year-round “U.S. Eastern Standard Time” in the states of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont, in substantially the same form as section 1; and (ii) upon a date agreed upon by all 5 states.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER	House, No. 3406
TITLE	An Act relative to responsibly reducing emissions in the transportation sector
SPONSORS	Representative Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.
HEARING DATE	July 22, 2025
REPORT OUT DATE	September 22, 2025
PRIOR HISTORY	None
SIMILAR MATTERS	H3357 (Rep. Howitt – Identical), S2185 (Sen. Moore – Identical)
CURRENT LAW	Chapter 7, Section 9A: State passenger vehicles and light duty pickup trucks; regulations governing use; report; personal use prohibited; purchase of hybrid or alternative fuel vehicles; acquisition; annual report Chapter 11, Section 142K: Motor vehicle emissions standards; late models

SUMMARY

SECTION 1: Establishes zero-emissions truck purchasing requirements for the Commonwealth

- Beginning July 1, 2025, all new medium- and heavy-duty trucks purchased or leased by the Commonwealth must be zero emissions vehicles (defined as battery electric trucks).

- Requires full conversion of the Commonwealth's medium- and heavy-duty fleet to zero emissions by June 30, 2035.
- Allows exceptions if suitable electric trucks are unavailable or incompatible with charging infrastructure.
- Directs the secretary to submit annual progress reports to the legislature by July 1, including fleet inventory, vehicle specs, and explanations for any non-electric acquisitions.

SECTION 2: Delays implementation of California-based truck emission regulations

- Prohibits the Department of Environmental Protection from enforcing the Advanced Clean Trucks and Heavy-Duty Omnibus regulations, as they apply to Massachusetts, before July 1, 2027.
- Defines these regulations as components of California's Low Emission Vehicle program requiring zero-emissions vehicle sales and stricter nitrogen oxide standards for medium- and heavy-duty trucks.

SECTION 3: Sets immediate effective date for the act upon passage.

HOUSE No. 3406

By Representative Puppolo of Springfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3406) of Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr., and others relative to reducing emissions in the transportation sector. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)

An Act relative to responsibly reducing emissions in the transportation sector.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 9A of chapter 7 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting the following paragraphs at the end thereof:

Beginning in July 1, 2025, all Commonwealth purchases or leases for new medium- and heavy-duty trucks shall be for models that are zero emissions vehicles. Further, the Commonwealth shall ensure that its fleet of medium- and heavy-duty, whether owned or leased, is comprised of zero emission vehicles by June 30, 2035. Zero emission vehicle shall mean a battery electric medium- or heavy-duty truck.

In the event that there are no battery electric medium- and heavy-duty trucks that meet the Commonwealth's needs or cannot be supported by the Commonwealth's existing charging infrastructure for medium- and heavy-duty trucks, the secretary shall be permitted to purchase any other medium- or heavy-duty truck that is not a battery electric vehicle.

The secretary shall submit to the clerks of the senate and house of representatives and the chairs of the joint committee on transportation a statement annually, not later than July 1, detailing the progress made in meeting the requirements of this section. The report shall include: (i) a complete listing of medium- and heavy-duty trucks leased, owned or assigned to each agency; and (ii) a description of each medium- and heavy-duty truck, including the year, make and model, whether the truck is powered by an internal combustion engine, a mild hybrid engine, a plug-in hybrid motor, a fully battery electric motor, a hydrogen fuel cell electric motor, a compressed liquefied natural gas engine, a propane engine or other means of propulsion. If a zero emission medium- or heavy-duty truck is not purchased or leased, the secretary shall provide, in each instance, a specific explanation as to why a zero emission vehicle could not have sufficiently fulfilled the intended functions.

SECTION 2. Section 142K of chapter 111 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting the following at the end thereof:-

Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the Department of Environmental Protection shall not implement or enforce the Advanced Clean Trucks and Heavy-Duty Omnibus regulations, as modified to apply to Massachusetts, earlier than July 1, 2027. As used in this section, "Advanced Clean Trucks regulation" means the portion of the California Low Emission Vehicle program that was adopted by the California Air Resources Board, and which would

require manufacturers of medium-duty and heavy-duty motor vehicles to sell an increasing percentage of zero-emissions vehicles, including the provisions codified in sections 1905, 1963, and sections 1963.1 through 1963.5 of Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations. “Heavy Duty Omnibus regulation” means the portion of the California Low Emission Vehicle program that was adopted by the California Air Resources Board regulation in title 13, California Code of Regulations sections 2139.5, and 2169.1 through 2169.8 and any other related amendments relative to the emissions standards for nitrogen oxide for medium-duty and heavy-duty motor vehicles.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect immediately upon passage.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight
Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER	House, No. 3414
TITLE	An Act amending the tenure of the officers of the state staff
SPONSORS	Representative Adam Scanlon
HEARING DATE	July 22, 2025
REPORT OUT DATE	September 22, 2025
PRIOR HISTORY	None
SIMILAR MATTERS	None
CURRENT LAW	Chapter 33, Section 15: State staff tenure

SUMMARY

This bill would amend the tenure of certain state staff militia from 6 years to 10 years.

HOUSE No. 3414

By Representative Scanlon of North Attleborough, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3414) of Adam J. Scanlon for legislation to further regulate the tenure of the officers of the state staff. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act amending the tenure of the officers of the state staff.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 33, Section 15, subsection (a) is hereby amended by striking out the words in line 4 “6 years” and replacing them with the words: - “10 years”.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER	House, No. 3415
TITLE	An Act relative to contractor liability for unpermitted construction
SPONSORS	Representative Margaret Scarsdale
HEARING DATE	July 22, 2025
REPORT OUT DATE	September 22, 2025
PRIOR HISTORY	(2021-22) H3849, Accompanied study order, H4469
SIMILAR MATTERS	None
CURRENT LAW	Chapter 143, Section 94: Powers and duties of state board of building regulations

SUMMARY

This legislation would add contractor liability rules to the state building code

- Authorizes the promulgation of regulations requiring contractor liability for performing work without required permits, including those under the state building code, municipal law, or other applicable statutes.
- Mandates that contractors personally obtain permits or retain copies of landowner-obtained permits for a reasonable time.
- Requires contractors to provide permit documentation upon request and subjects violations to fines established by regulation.

HOUSE No. 3415

By Representative Scarsdale of Pepperell, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3415) of Margaret R. Scarsdale relative to contractor liability for unpermitted construction. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)

An Act relative to contractor liability for unpermitted construction.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Section 94 of chapter 143 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:-

(s) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, to promulgate rules and regulations as part of the state building code mandating liability for contractors who perform work without a required permit including, but not limited to, permits required by the state building code, a municipality, section 40 of chapter 131, chapter 91 or any other permits required by the General Laws. The rules and regulations shall include fines for contractors who perform work without a required permit and shall mandate that contractors obtain permits personally or retain copies of permits provided by a landowner for a reasonable time, to be provided to permitting authorities upon request.

Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight

Bill Summary

BILL NUMBER	House, No. 3432
TITLE	An Act relative to assessing the costs of unemployment fraud
SPONSORS	Representative Marcus S. Vaughn
HEARING DATE	July 22, 2025
REPORT OUT DATE	September 22, 2025
PRIOR HISTORY	(2023-24) H3123; Accompanied study order, H4675, (2021-22) H3137; Accompanied study order, H4969
SIMILAR MATTERS	H2186 (Rep. Vaughn)
CURRENT LAW	Any general or special law to the contrary

SUMMARY

This legislation would direct a comprehensive audit of pandemic-era unemployment fraud:

- Requires the state auditor to conduct an audit of the Department of Unemployment Assistance focused on unemployment fraud during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Includes review of fraud prevention policies, fiscal impact to taxpayers, and recommendations for improving safeguards.
- Mandates public release of the auditor’s findings no later than December 31, 2026.

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 319 FILED ON: 1/8/2025

HOUSE No. 3432

By Representative Vaughn of Wrentham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3432) of Marcus S. Vaughn that the State Auditor conduct a comprehensive audit of the Department of Unemployment Assistance to determine the level of unemployment fraud during the 2019 novel coronavirus pandemic. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3123 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)

An Act relative to assessing the costs of unemployment fraud.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the department of the state auditor shall conduct a comprehensive audit of the department of unemployment assistance to determine the level of unemployment fraud that has taken place during the 2019 novel coronavirus pandemic, also known as COVID-19. The audit shall include, but not be limited to: (1) a review and examination of the policies and procedures of the department of unemployment assistance to prevent and address unemployment fraud; (2) a review of any and all costs to the state and taxpayers due to unemployment fraud during the course of the pandemic; and (3) any recommendations regarding how to improve the department of unemployment's policies to prevent unemployment fraud.

The department of the state auditor shall publish a report of its findings and make the report available to the public not later than December 31, 2026.

