

Massachusetts House of Representatives Bill Summary

Bill #: H.492

Title: An Act establishing an advisory commission on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics

Sponsor: Rep. Edward R. Philips

Committee: Economic Development and Emerging Technologies

Hearing Date: June 5, 2025

Reporting Deadline: August 4, 2025 (subject to extensions under House Rule 27)

Prior History: 2023-2024 (H.419) - Study Order (See H.4593)
2021-2022 (H.4226) - Study Order (See H.4939)

Key Terms: N/A

Current Law: MGL Chapter 3 regulates the authority of the General Court.

Summary: This bill adds a new Section 76 to Chapter 3 of the General Laws, establishing an advisory commission on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) within the Massachusetts General Court.

Subsection (a) establishes the advisory commission as well as its membership. It states that the commission shall consist of 13 members that will include the following: House and Senate chairs of the Joint Committee on Economic Development and the Joint Committee on Public Health (or their designees), as well as the House and Senate Minority Leaders (or their designees). Seven additional members will be appointed by the Governor and must include the President of the National Society of Black Engineers – Boston Professionals (or their designee), the President of the Environmental League of Massachusetts (or their designee), the President of Women in the Enterprise of Science & Technology (WEST) (or their designee), the President of the Broad Institute (or their designee), a public health specialist employed by a hospital or the Commonwealth selected from a list provided by the

Massachusetts Hospital Association, the President of MassBio (or their designee), and the President of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers – Boston Professionals (or their designee).

Subsection (b) states all committee appointments shall be for terms of three years.

Subsection (c) states that the commission shall annually elect one of its members to be chair and that members of the commission shall not be paid for serving on the commission.

Subsection (d) requires appropriate representation of women and other racial groups on the commission in a manner that appropriately reflects the demographics of the Commonwealth.

Subsection (e) requires the commission to meet monthly, or more frequently at the request of the chair or any three members.

Subsection (f) states that the Commission shall consider any matter relevant to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and shall file its recommendations on proposed legislation.

Subsection (g) further details the duties of the advisory commission. Such duties shall include: reviewing and analyzing proposed STEM-related legislation for scientific integrity, offering feedback and recommendations on such legislation, advocating for the interests of STEM professionals in Massachusetts, establishing internal rules and procedures, and requesting information and assistance from state agencies as needed.

Subsection (h) gives the commission the authority to seek information/assistance from any relevant state agency.