

Massachusetts House of Representatives Bill Summary

Bill #: H.2249

Title: An Act protecting neighboring communities from deleterious construction

Sponsor: Rep. Bruce Ayers

Committee: Municipalities and Regional Government

Hearing Date: June 24, 2025

Prior History: Refile of H.2020 (Study Order H.4573)

Current Law: Chapter 40 of MGL governs the powers and duties of cities and towns.

Summary: Section 1 amends Chapter 40 of MGL by adding a new section, Section 70. This new section requires a buffer zone to be established between two communities when a major construction project is located within 1,500 feet of another municipality's border.

The purpose of this buffer zone would be to prevent harm to a neighboring municipality from another municipality's allowance of a major construction project. A major construction project shall be defined as a public or private construction project whose value exceeds \$5 million and consists of road or highway construction, or the development of a bridge over navigable or tidal waters.

A buffer zone shall include but is not limited to parks, gardens, trails, wetlands, open space, or a protected area having restrictions on resource use and development measures to enhance the open space or conservation use of the protected area.