

**Massachusetts House of Representatives  
Bill Summary**

**Bill #:** H.2297

**Title:** An Act relative to protecting municipalities from unfunded mandates

**Sponsor:** Rep. Hannah Kane and Rep. James Arciero

**Committee:** Municipalities and Regional Government

**Hearing Date:** July 29, 2025

**Prior History:** Refile of H.2073 (Study Order H.4573)

**Current Law:** Chapter 3 Section 38A of MGL concerns the law relative to favorable reports by ways and means, bonding, capital expenditures, and state assets committees including fiscal notes and cost limitations.

Chapter 3 Section 38B of MGL deals with the requests, recommendations, capital outlay programs and projects, public hearings, and notices by ways and means, bonding, capital expenditures, and state assets committees.

**Summary:** Section 1 amends Chapter 3 by adding a new section after Section 38B, Section 38B  $\frac{1}{2}$ , which will contain 3 subsections: (a), (b), (c).

Subsection (a) of Section 38B  $\frac{1}{2}$  defines an unfunded mandate as a mandate that imposes a cost on municipal government as a result of legislation being considered by the General Court, including, but not limited to the cost for the requisite staff necessary to administer or implement the legislation.

Subsection (b) requires joint committees of the general court and the committees on ways and means of either branch thereof when referred bills that contain an unfunded mandate to municipalities shall, prior to a favorable report of such bill include a fiscal note or study which clearly explains any cost described in subsection (a).

Subsection (c) states that when there is a cost to a municipality, the legislation may not be enacted until an appropriation satisfying the cost of the implementation is provided by the general court.