

Massachusetts House of Representatives

Bill Summary

Bill #: H.2334 / S.1444

Title: An Act providing grants for municipal sustainability directors

Sponsor: Rep. Margaret Scarsdale, Sen. James Eldridge

Committee: Municipalities and Regional Government

Hearing Date: June 24, 2025

Current Law: MGL Chapter 29 relates to state finance. It establishes a General Fund of the commonwealth, into which all revenue payable to the commonwealth shall be paid, except revenue required by law to be paid into a fund other than the General Fund and revenue for or on account of sinking funds, trust funds or trust deposits, which funds shall be maintained and the revenue applied in accordance with law or the purposes of the fund. The law establishes various special state funds and sets forth the processes by which general and special funds are to be appropriated, expended and accounted for.

Section 5C of Chapter 29 relates to the Comptroller's certification and disposition of consolidated net surplus of state funds.

Summary: This legislation amends Chapter 29 of the General Laws by inserting a new section (2EEEEEE) which establishes a separate state fund known as the Municipal Sustainability Director Fund. The fund shall be credited with appropriations or other money authorized or transferred by the general court and specifically designated to be credited to the fund.

Amounts credited to the fund shall be expended to support cities and towns to fund an environmental sustainability director position. Money remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund. The fund shall not be subject to section 5C of chapter 29.

Note: There is no central database containing a list of sustainability directors for each city and town. According to the Department of Energy Resources, there are 297 cities and towns that have "Green community" designations and are therefore eligible to apply for state grants and other resources to pursue energy conservation projects.