

Joint Committee on Financial Services
The 194th General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
2025-2026
Bill Summary

Bill No: H1310

Title: An Act to incentivize the adoption of local climate resilience policies

Sponsor: Rep. Lindsay N. Sabadosa

Hearing Date: 9/15/25

Reporting Date: 11/14/25

Similar Matters: S686

Prior History: S599 (2023-2024) Favorable; SWM

Current Law:

Adds a new section to Chap. 21N: CLIMATE PROTECTION AND GREEN ECONOMY ACT. Sets limit to greenhouse gases and steps to mitigate amount. Outlines marketplace compliance measures. Creates an advisory committee. Publish state plan every 5 years to mitigate extreme weather disasters. Outlines a grant program for cities and towns.

Chap. 29 about state financing which carves out different trust funds is also amended.

Chap. 21A, Sec. 20 about the power of the board for the EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS.

Summary:

This bill will allow the secretary of energy and environmental affairs to develop and support a municipal vulnerability preparedness plus grant program (MVP + program). The secretary shall administer the fund. Grant can fund contracts for non-profit watershed associations and other non-profit entities.

Municipalities seeking designation as an MVP + community will need meet criteria and also be actively working within their communities need to apply and will also need to be working on other qualifiers. Formula includes CDC's Prevention's Social Vulnerability Index scores for census.

For a town/city to qualify for an MVP +, must adopt 4 of the following 6 programs.

1. A stormwater utility program
2. Provide programming at city, town or regional climate resilience hubs at community buildings to educate residents

3. Use of green infrastructure in local public works and public infrastructure projects. Training for municipal employees to implement green infrastructure.
4. A floodplain overlay district that covers special flood hazard zones that would impose restrictions to building/renovations, dumping, and/or filling that would damage the natural
5. Requirement to plant trees to provide shade in large paved areas, protects trees with a diameter > 8 inches.
6. An ordinance that would states that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Atlas 14 precipitation estimates is required for permits that need precipitation analysis.

Once they receive this designation, they will be able to apply for grants from the trust for climate resilience projects. Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Trust Fund created. Can't be in the deficit at the end of fiscal year. Any monies not used will not be returned to the General Fund.

A municipal opt-in specialized stretch resilience code that incorporates climate data is spelled out in appendix of the state building code. Code created by a 17 member commission.

Adds the specialized stretch resilience code into section about the Building Code Appeals Board that details rights of whoever is aggrieved by an interpretation of law/ regulation by a state or local agency to appeal. It states that any decision based on the stretch resilience code cannot be appealed to the Appeals Board.