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**House Bill #1 Committee 1**

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**Sponsors:** Anh Ha, Marcelo Angel

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** Definitions

In this Act:

(a) "Covid Educational Recovery Fund" refers to a fund established to give out monies for carrying out and implementing the different types of educational recovery efforts as defined under this Act.

(b) "Local education agencies" includes local school districts, charter schools, or another institution led by a governing board which provides primary and secondary education to its constituency.

(c) "State education agencies" shall mean the departments or agencies in each state administering general supervision of public education in the state.

Digital Equity is the idea and concept designed to ensure that all individuals and whole communities have access to information technology capacity so that they can be full participants of society, democracy, and the economy.

**Section 2:** Establishment and Purpose of the Covid Educational Recovery Fund

(a) There is hereby created the Covid Educational Recovery Fund, which provides financial assistance to implement the objectives indicated in this Act, accelerating learning recovery, support for social and emotional well-being, digital equity, strengthening educator capacity, promotion of family and community engagement, and taking the obligation of ensuring inclusive education in response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

(b) The fund shall be under the custody of the Department of Education and shall be utilized solely for the purpose of financing activities on school-based disaster and emergency risk management, including the creation and operationalization of the coordinating and monitoring body of educational institutions as defined in this Act.

**Section 3:** Allocation and Utilization of Covid-19 Education Relief Funds

(a) It is a forum grant to state educational agencies based on the number of students served and the extent to which the education system of each state is affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

(b) State education agencies shall, in turn, sub-allocate further to local education agencies in a manner that gives priority to those serving high-need communities and those that have been hit most by the pandemic.

(c) Allocated funds are subject to the use by the local educational agencies to implement programs and interventions grounded in evidence that will help accelerate learning recovery, support social-emotional well-being, promote digital



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1 equity, strengthen educator capacity, and encourage family and community  
2 engagement.

3 **Section 4:** Program Implementation for Learning Recovery

4 Examples of such programs include expanded learning time, summer learning  
5 programs, and tutoring. They can also be direct interventions surrounding key  
6 subjects, such as reading, mathematics, and science.

7 (b) Particular attention will be taken so that adequate needs regarding students  
8 with disabilities and English language learners, along with any other susceptible  
9 groups, are given proper attention in all forms of recovery. Section 5: Social-  
10 Emotional Support and Digital Equity

11 (a) Funds for facilitating social-emotional well-being in students' learning will be  
12 channeled towards resourcing and training educators in strategies that will enhance  
13 such well-being and on trauma-informed teaching. Training efforts are to focus on  
14 how mental health support might be part of trauma-informed

15 (c) To bridge efforts across the digital divide will include ensuring that all students  
16 have access to reliable internet, the appropriate technology for learning, and digital  
17 literacy training.

18 **Section 5:** Building Educator Capacity and Family Engagement

19 (a) Professional development programs will be initiated so that teachers and school  
20 staff are provided with all necessary support from the adaptation of new teaching  
21 techniques, integration of modern technology in the school environment, and how  
22 to cater to the needs of such diverse students.

23 (b) Schools will develop strategies for partnering with families and communities  
24 such that engagement practices are responsive to culture and inclusive of all  
25 families.

26 **Section 6:** Reporting and Accountability

27 (a) Local education agencies shall report with regards to the use of funds and the  
28 progress of the recovery efforts, including measurable outcomes and impacts on  
29 student learning and well-being.

30 (b) The Department of Education shall issue guidelines in monitoring and evaluating  
31 the programs and interventions funded for effectiveness.

32 **Section 7:** Sunset Provision and Effective Date

33 (a): This Act shall expire 5 years after the date of its enactment unless reauthorized  
34 by the Congress. Any balance in the Covid Educational Recovery Fund remaining at  
35 its expiration shall be returned to the general treasury.

36 (b): This Act shall take effect immediately upon passage.

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**Senate Bill #2 Committee 2**

**Sponsors:** Beatriz Oliveira

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** An Act To: Provide a Clearly Identified Charitable Contribution Receptacle in Every Public School in The Commonwealth

**Section 2:** Section 1: For the purpose of my bill, the following definitions shall apply: Subsection A: "Clearly identified" shall be defined as an area or object marked with a noticeable and readable sign indicating its purpose. Subsection B: "Charitable Contribution Receptacle" shall be defined as a container to accept all types of new and gently used personal property, including classroom supplies, computers, musical instruments, sports equipment, and clothing for the purpose of assisting students in need. Subsection C: "Public School" shall be defined as learning institutions that are funded by local, state and/or federal governments. They offer general education opportunities to children in kindergarten through grade 12.

**Section 3:** Section 2: Purpose Donations collected can foster many new opportunities for students, staff, and families to provide more clothing, materials, and sports equipment. By providing a designated space for donations, schools can teach students the value of generosity and help those of lower income, as well as those who may not want to ask for help. According to the Kids Count Data Center by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, in Massachusetts, over 135,000 children were reported to be living in poverty in 2021. This bill will ensure that students and children in need all over the Commonwealth are given access to a donation area that may contribute in many ways to ease some financial burdens at little or no cost.

**Section 4:** Section 3: Provisions Subsection A: A clearly marked donation container or space will be provided and made available to all students and staff during opening hours in every public school in the Commonwealth. Subsection B: Each school will design and implement a distribution plan of donations for each school.

**Section 5:** Section 4: Fiscal Implications Subsection A: The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Education will provide receptacle containers to schools. Subsection B: A 2% reduction in state funding to schools that do not meet the provisions outlined in this bill.

**Section 6:** Section 5: Effective Date This legislation shall be in effect in August 2026 upon passage.

**Section 7:**

**Section 8:**



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**House Bill #3 Committee 1**

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**Sponsors:** Oliver Tulum

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** This bill is designed to expand the option of foot travel in Boston, and encourage people to walk rather than drive by building walkways in high traffic areas near businesses, schools, and around other public transportation services. These moving walkways would require regular maintenance and service but would offer a long term mean of transportation as they last around 20 years on average. The installation of these moving walkways would require reports on the heaviest foot traffic areas in the city and the most effective places they could placed. By leaving spaces in between moving walkways, citizens would be encouraged to walk a short distance, which many medical professionals suggest on a daily basis could prolong people’s health and movement. These walkways also provide a service for elderly citizens and people with disabilities travelling around the city. Finally, it is important that this bill be discussed with transportation authority and the walkways are maintained each year to ensure citizens' ability to use them.

**Section 2:** With reports in the past year of the MBTA in need of nearly \$25 billion in repair and support for trains and buses, moving walkways offer a much more cost effective and sustainable approach towards public transportation. That being said, a moving walkway with the basic dimensions of two lanes each fitting two people, could be estimated through the proposal of Norfolk International Airport in Virginia adding four 150-foot moving walkways, which was estimated to cost around \$5 million. Now, this estimate suggests that each of the 150-foot moving walkways would cost \$1.25 million dollars. Furthermore, if many of these walkways would be introduced in the city of Boston, perhaps a goal of 10,000 feet of moving walkways, or nearly 2 miles, would cost around \$67 million dollars. While initially, this sounds like quite a bit, when compared to the \$25 Billion in MBTA repairs and projects, and how much could be saved with less reliance on these services, it seems very plausible. It is also a more sustainable solution with the average life of a moving walkway being around 20 years. Last year, Massachusetts received \$1.37 billion dollars in transportation funding. This bill would receive funding from the millionaires tax, which raised \$250 million dollars in revenue to the Commonwealth Transportation Fund last year to support the MBTA train lines and is estimated to raise another \$1.5 billion next year. So, this bill suggests another revenue stream taken out of next years millionaires tax to raise anywhere from \$67-250 million in funding. It is important to remember this is for a project that would make Boston the first city in the world to make large steps forward in creating a greener and



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1 more sustainable transportation service by implementing moving walkways to  
2 encourage citizens to walk.

3 **Section 3:** The introduction of moving walkways in cities would be met with lots of  
4 different opinions, but perhaps the biggest threat to moving walkways is the  
5 maintenance and security of them in order to keep them as safe options for the  
6 public. While the walkways are very safe and could be stopped easily, they would  
7 require workers to maintain and watch the moving walkways in order to ensure the  
8 safety of citizens. There would also be a threat of vandalism or destruction of  
9 property, in which case police would be called in to investigate the incidents and  
10 punish the offender in the appropriate way as it relates to state laws and  
11 destruction of state property. Essentially, these moving walkways would be treated  
12 as state transportation property.

13 **Section 4:** This bill would go into effect after reports are conducted on which areas  
14 of the city a moving walkway would be most suitable and workers are recruited.  
15 This would likely be implemented in late 2025 after next year's revenue from the  
16 millionaire's tax is collected and the construction of moving walkways would begin  
17 immediately afterwards. Reports would have to be done to estimate how long the  
18 construction of the moving walkways would take.

19 **Section 5:**

20 **Section 6:**

21 **Section 7:**

22 **Section 8:**



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**Senate Bill #4 Committee 3**

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**Sponsors:** Jelani Tah

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** An Act To: Ensure and strengthen services provided to students with disabilities in low-income and non-English speaking households.

**Section 2:** Section 1: For the purpose of this bill the following definitions shall apply: Subsection A: Special Education services shall be defined as the practice of educating students in a way that accommodates their disabilities, and special needs. Subsection B: Low-income Households will be defined as households with a gross income at or less than 80 percent of the area median household income (adjusted for household) and Low-income communities will be defined as places(ranging in size from cities to districts) where the 50% or more of households are earning less than the median Subsection C: A publicly funded eligible student who is 3 to 21 years old, and who has not received a high school diploma, is eligible for special education if the student: · Has a disability; and · Due to the disability, is unable to progress effectively in regular education without specifically designed instruction or is unable to access the general curriculum without one or more related services. Subsection D: Schools will be defined as public schools and/or state-funded schools elementary through high school in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Subsection E: An IEP(Individualized Educational Plan) is a plan or program developed to ensure that a child who has a disability identified under the law and is attending an elementary or secondary educational institution receives specialized instruction and related services Subsection F: Services will be defined as programs, resources, and support systems designed to meet the specific needs of young individuals with disabilities. Such services may include but are not limited to speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, counseling, and individual educational plans (IEPs) provided for children with special needs.

**Section 3:** Section 2: Navigating the landscape of special education services can be a complex task for parents and caregivers who may be looking for the best place for their family to live. Now imagine how difficult this is for parents for whom English is not their primary language, and for parents who are limited by their socioeconomic standing. Children with disabilities are as important to our future as fully abled children and when it comes to education, especially in this case there is always more that can be done. More to alleviate the burden of families, more to improve quality and accessibility. While Massachusetts has a wide array of services available already, for people in low-income communities some of these tend to be either unattainable or lacking in quality. As a result, youths end up having to be





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1 bussed sometimes miles away to receive these services putting unnecessary stress  
2 on the shoulders of parents. In some cases, these youths can even end up in  
3 schools that can't provide them with these services. If we continue to do nothing,  
4 we'll allow these youths to slip through the cracks of our education system without  
5 the necessary skills and tools they need to survive and succeed in society.

6 **Section 4:** Section 3: The funds allocated upon this bill's passage will go towards:  
7 Subsection A: Training(on inclusionary practices and cultural competency/teaching  
8 to include more kids with disabilities in regular classrooms), Subsection B:  
9 increased pay for special education providers, Subsection C: evaluating the  
10 current special education system in Massachusetts to determine whether all public  
11 schools can provide what is deemed as necessary services for disabled youths  
12 under Massachusetts law, Subsection D: Ensuring clear communication between  
13 parents and families especially for low-income and non-English speaking families  
14 through making workshops available for parents to learn about the special  
15 education system and some of its complexities. Subsection E: Hiring more  
16 providers like speech and behavioral therapists, interpreters, and occupational  
17 therapists

18 **Section 5:** Section 4: While the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and  
19 Secondary Education (DESE) will work with local education agencies to come up  
20 with a budget for the implementation of the provisions listed above a minimum of  
21 450 million dollars from its budget will go towards this funding this initiative.

22 **Section 6:** Section 5: Schools will be required to develop a comprehensive plan  
23 that includes a timeline for the implementation of these provisions as well as the  
24 cost. Schools that fail to do so will need to be inspected to ensure adequate  
25 services are being provided and in the case that they are not 5% of funding will be  
26 cut from the schools' budget until they take steps to address the issue.

27 **Section 7:** Section 6: This bill will go into effect 2027. The timeline for the  
28 implementation will depend on the affected schools and their varying circumstances

29 **Section 8:**



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**House Bill #5 Committee 4**

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**Sponsors:** Andrew Mozinski

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** Section 1: Definitions a. "Gasoline-powered vehicles" shall refer to vehicles utilizing internal combustion engines that run on gasoline. b. "Reasonable standard of fuel efficiency" shall denote a minimum fuel efficiency level determined by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**Section 2:** Section 2: The Purpose Statement This bill seeks to enhance environmental sustainability and reduce carbon emissions by setting and enforcing reasonable fuel efficiency standards for gasoline-powered vehicles. This bill will also diminish American fuel consumption which will help Americans wean themselves from dependence on foreign oil.

**Section 3:** Section 3: Fuel Efficiency Standards a. Establish a minimum fuel efficiency standard of 35 miles per gallon (MPG) for new gasoline-powered vehicles sold or registered within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. b. Provide disincentives for manufacturers to fall short of the minimum standards, encouraging innovation in fuel-efficient technologies. Taxes on the purchase of vehicles that do not meet the fuel efficiency standard. c. Provide incentives for manufacturers to exceed the minimum standards, encouraging innovation in fuel-efficient technologies. Make fuel purchase of vehicles that exceed this standard by more than 25 MPG will be made tax deductible to up to 10%.

**Section 4:** Section 4: Compliance and Enforcement a. Mandate annual testing and certification of fuel efficiency for gasoline-powered vehicles during the state inspection process. b. Impose taxes on vehicles not meeting the prescribed fuel efficiency standards. c. Allocate a portion of taxes collected to public awareness campaigns on the benefits of fuel-efficient vehicles.

**Section 5:** Section 5: Funding Mechanism a. Establish the Fuel Efficiency Technology Fund to support research and development of fuel-efficient technologies. b. Allocate collected taxes to environmental conservation initiatives, such as tree planting programs.

**Section 6:** Section 6: Penalties for Non-Compliance a. Purchase of vehicles that fail to meet fuel efficiency standards are subject to taxes of up to 9% per vehicle. This tax will be used for funding of previously described government initiatives.

**Section 7:** Section 7: Implementation Timeline This bill will take effect on January 1, 2024, allowing manufacturers time to adjust and comply with the new fuel efficiency standards.

**Section 8:**





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**Senate Bill #6 Committee 1**

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**Sponsors:** Patrick Reed

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** Section 1: Definitions Subsection A: Rock Salt shall be defined as “large granules of sodium chloride, of which nearly half a million are used annually, in the state of Massachusetts to cheaply melt ice and snow, along roads”

Subsection B: Brine solution shall be defined as “a solution made up of 25% Sodium Chloride, 15% Pickle Juice, and 60% Water”

**Section 2:** Section 2: Purpose Every year, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, around half a million tons of rock salt is used to de-ice and melt snow on roads and sidewalks. Although this salt succeeds at making roads safe, it leaves devastating effects in its wake. The most major of these is its effect on water. After temperatures begin to rise, rock salt melts into nearby bodies of water. This includes groundwater, one of the major sources of drinking water for many towns. High chloride and sodium concentrations in water have an incredibly corrosive effect on plumbing fixtures, leading to a need for repairs. If proper repairs aren’t made, mold can develop in a home, and eventually, cause leakages and bursting. A second effect of rock salt is its effect on wildlife. As mentioned earlier, rock salt can frequently contaminate nearby water. Chloride levels are damaging to local ecosystems, and are toxic to aquatic life. Many mammals are also attracted to the salt. Moose and deer lick it off of roads, and cause frequent car accidents. Finally, salt-use, nationwide, creates 5 billion dollars worth of repair yearly, affecting vehicles, roads, and bridges.

**Section 3:** Section 3: Provision Rock Salt can be almost completely eradicated, through the use of a Brine Solution. This brine, I have previously detailed the percentages of, will significantly reduce the harmful effects of Rock Salt. The salt and pickle juice would be applied in anticipation of storms. The salt would continue its function, melting ice and snow, but in a liquid form. The addition of pickle juice slows freezing of ice and allows the salt to stick to roads better.

**Section 4:** Funding for this bill shall come from United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

**Section 5:** If a town fails to comply with this bill, they will receive a \$500 fine from the EPA. This fine will recur for each day that Rock Salt remains on the town’s roads

**Section 6:** If this bill passes, it shall go into effect for the first winter storms of the winter of 2025-6

**Section 7:**

**Section 8:**



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**House Bill #7 Committee 2**

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**Sponsors:** KinJia Wong

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** Subsection A: "Automated Road Safety Camera System", shall be defined as automated motor vehicle sensor device installed which digitally photographs and records the speed of a motor vehicle in violation of traffic laws and regulation where the automated road camera safety device is located. Subsection B: "Camera Enforceable Violation" shall be defined to specific traffic law infractions that can be enforced through camera surveillance. These violations include: (i) running a red light at an intersection with a steady red signal, as outlined in section 9 of chapter 89; (ii) exceeding the speed limit, as specified in sections 17, 18, or 18B of chapter 90.

**Section 2:** According to a report by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety in 2021, there were 1,109 recorded people who were killed in crashes involving red light running (<https://www.iihs.org/topics/red-light-running#overview>). They had also estimated that 127,000 people were injured in red light running crashes. Their studies also reported that Automated Road Safety Camera Systems had helped mitigate the number of fatal crash rates involving red light running by 21%, and the rate of all types of fatal crashes at intersections by 14%. However, a study sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration found that in seven cities rear-end collisions increased by 15% as a result of Automated Road Safety Camera Systems. Despite this, in the same seven cities they also found that right-angle crashes which are often more dangerous than rear end crashes were reduced by 25%. The same results also showed that there was an economic benefit of more than \$18.5 million between the seven communities. By designating more areas with Automated Road Safety Camera Systems, the dangers of crashes and the chances of crashes will vastly reduced and mitigated.

**Section 3:** The Common Wealth of Massachusetts should identify the top 30 cities with areas most prone to accidents with the collaboration of outside sources such as the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, and then implement Automated Road Safety Cameras in these areas within cities. Photos will be terminated off their records a month of the violation to provide time for falsely fined citizens to appeal a fine. These cameras should be running video constantly with exceptions of maintenance. Video will be stored until deleted a week after the recorded time stamp. Videos of camera enforceable violations will be stored and kept for six weeks in order to provide time for appeals of a camera enforceable violation. The state will hire a team to develop a program that will allow cameras to detect camera enforceable violations, and separate these violations into separate clips.



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- 1 **Section 4:** According to a report by the Department of Transportation's Intelligent
- 2 Transportation Systems Joint Program Office in 2003 it costs \$67,000 to \$80,000 to
- 3 implement Automated Road Safety Camera Systems per intersection. However, the
- 4 price has likely gone down over time. Funds should come from the 'Safe Streets
- 5 and Roads for All' Grant Program run by the U.S. Department of Transportation
- 6 which has over \$3 billion available in future funding rounds.
- 7 **Section 5:** Subsection A: Fines shall not exceed \$125 and shall not be below \$15
- 8 for third time camera enforceable violators. Subsection B: Camera enforceable
- 9 violations will be monitored by local police departments, and are at the
- 10 departments discretion based on variables that will be determined and outlined by
- 11 the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. Variables should be emphasize
- 12 the safety of the violator and the safety of others around the motor vehicle.
- 13 Subsection C: First and second time offenders may be left with a written warning
- 14 at local police department discretion, but third time offenders will be fined as stated
- 15 in Subsection A. Subsection D: A motor vehicle under camera enforceable
- 16 violation, violators will be mailed within three weeks of a violation.
- 17 **Section 6:**
- 18 **Section 7:**
- 19 **Section 8:**



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**Senate Bill #8 Committee 3**

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**Sponsors:** Alana Haley

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** An act to: Ban the teaching and act of dissecting animals in grades below 11th.

**Section 2:** Animal dissection includes the cutting into of a dead animal to learn about the anatomy or physiology of the animal.

**Section 3:** With the easy moldability of children’s minds it is irresponsible and outright dangerous to teach them how to dissect a body as if its life was completely meaningless.

**Section 4:** Teaching that a once-living creature is disposable once dead and teaching kids to only think about it as something dead and not something that was once alive is incredibly dangerous to children’s developing minds. With the amount of school shootings and violent crimes perpetrated by young adults and teenagers, we must take whatever steps necessary to decrease these disturbing numbers. Violence towards animals is a top sign of violence towards people in the future, one that has been seen in multiple serial killers throughout time. We must teach the children of MA to care for living creatures to avoid brewing any negative feelings towards living things or any idea that the death of a living thing is simply “a learning experience” This does not include separated bones and or fur, this is for animals that are recognizable as a whole, or mostly whole being. For example, a regurgitated mouse from an owl that is simply bones and not a fully intact mouse can be researched. 6 to 12 million animals are killed every year, solely for teaching dissection in classrooms. Animal dissection is yet another way in which humans are harming, destroying, and degrading our planet, and it can be stopped.

**Section 5:** There is no funding required

**Section 6:** If this law is not followed the school district will be required to make a payment of an amount TBD to the State government, which will be allocated to other school programs; ie. arts, music, science, etc.

**Section 7:** This bill would go into effect in the 24-25 school year. For the first two full school years, there will be bi-monthly checks to make sure the law is being obeyed, then after the 2 years, the checks will become annual. The checks will be done by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

**Section 8:**



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**House Bill #9 Committee 4**

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**Sponsors:** Beverly Tong

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** An Act To: Allocate Funding towards the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) subway Powergrid.

**Section 2:** Section 1: Definitions Subsection A: "Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA)" refers to the public transit system within the Greater Boston area. Subsection B: "Greater Boston area" refers to the areas in which the MBTA subway services. Subsection C: "Subway" refers to the public subway system that the MBTA provides to the Greater Boston area, also known as the T. Subsection D: The "Capital Needs Assessment and Inventory (CNAI)" is a routine analysis, conducted by the MBTA, that assists in the understanding of the overall condition of the transit system. Subsection E: The "State of Good Repair Index" refers to documentation of the magnitude of the agency's capital asset needs and helps the agency determine how best to invest in improvements that will ensure how physical assets are able to operate reliably and efficiently. Subsection F: "State of Good Repair" (SGR) refers to an approximate measure of an asset's condition and expected life and is used by the agency to support planning for investments that will repair, rehabilitate, or replace that asset. Subsection G: "Power Grid" refers to a network of power lines and associated equipment used to transmit and distribute electricity over a geographic area.

**Section 3:** Section 2: Purpose Massachusetts citizens in the Greater Boston area use the MBTA for their main source of transportation for everyday life. There is an annual average of 216,329,500 for MBTA ridership (according to MBTA). According to the MBTA, 64% of all assets including facilities, rolling stock, equipment, structures, signals, tracks, and power are out of SGR. The bill aims to allocate a fixed amount of funds towards the MBTA subway system to ensure safety and accessibility in the public transportation system with the assistance and knowledge from the MBTA agency, specifically targeting the power system. The power system currently is estimated to need 5.1 billion dollars for replacement and repairs to fit the SGR standards which is 76% of power assets. The MBTA plans to spend about \$2.7 billion for operations.

**Section 4:** Section 3: Provisions Subsection A: Expanded research specifically on the MBTA subway system's power grid will be conducted by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation during the CNAI assessment. Subsection B: The MBTA team will work with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to determine a set amount of funds for the power system.



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- 1 **Section 5:** Section 4: Fiscal Implications Subsection A: Proper funding will be
- 2 decided on and allocated towards the MBTA based on the one year research.
- 3 **Section 6:** Section 5: Penalty There are no penalties for this bill.
- 4 **Section 7:** Section 6: Effective Date This legislation shall be in effect during the
- 5 fiscal year of 2025.
- 6 **Section 8:**





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**Senate Bill #10 Committee 1**

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**Sponsors:** Lauren Prouty

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** An Act To: Mandate Public Wifi For Student’s In Grades Nine Through Twelve’s Personal Devices In All Public Schools

**Section 2:** “Cellular Devices” shall be defined as personal, non-school-sponsored electronic devices.

**Section 3:** In the modern age of technology, wifi means connection. Whether that means the ability to connect to family and friends miles away or down the street, it is something that interlinks all citizens. Many often discuss and stress the uncertainty of safety at school. Mandating schools' Wi-Fi ensures that students have access to their loved ones at the touch of a screen without having to pay for cellular data to contact them in zones such as schools. Peace of mind and safety are necessary for the people of the Commonwealth.

**Section 4:** Each school should provide themselves with a WIFI router. There should be a WIFI created only for the use of the students personal devices. The password and other information to access the WIFI shall be presented at the office of the school and no student shall be denied access.

**Section 5:** The funding for the enactment of the enforcement of this legislation shall be generated through a tax increase in each town and city in the Commonwealth.

**Section 6:** Any public school that refuses to comply with the terms of this bill shall be put on probation by the Massachusetts Board of Education. Violating the probation shall result in a monetary penalty by the Commonwealth.

**Section 7:** This act shall be in effect as of the start of the academic year pertaining to each school in Two Thousand Twenty-Four.

**Section 8:**



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**House Bill #11 Committee 2**

**Sponsors:** Milan Nguyen

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

An Act To: mandating all 6-12 public high schools in Massachusetts to provide free menstrual hygiene products in accessible locations within school facilities.

Section 1: Definitions

Subsection A: "Menstrual hygiene products" shall refer to tampons or pads.

Subsection B: "Menstruating individual" shall refer to a person who menstruates.

Subsection C: "School facilities" shall refer to the nurses' office or the main office.

Subsection D: "Schools" shall refer to all public middle and high schools

Section 2: Purpose

The purpose of this bill aims to ensure that all students have access to the menstrual hygiene products they need to manage menstruation with dignity and without interruption to their education. By mandating the provision of menstrual hygiene products in public schools, Massachusetts can promote gender equity, support student well-being, and create more inclusive and supportive learning environments.

Section 3: Provisions

Subsection A: All Massachusetts public middle and highschools shall provide menstrual hygiene products free of charge in accessible locations within school facilities.

Subsection B: Menstrual hygiene products shall be made available in bathrooms commonly used by students, including but not limited to restrooms designated for females and gender-neutral restrooms.

Subsection C: Schools shall ensure that menstrual hygiene products provided are of sufficient quality and variety to meet the diverse needs of students.

Subsection D: Schools shall take measures to ensure the privacy and confidentiality of students accessing menstrual hygiene products.

Section 4: Reporting and Evaluating

Subsection A: Schools shall annually report to the Department of Elementary and Secondary (DESE) on the implementation of this Act, including information on product usage, costs, and any challenges encountered.

Subsection B: The DESE shall evaluate the effectiveness of this Act in improving access to menstrual hygiene products and reducing barriers to education for students.

Section 5: Funding

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) shall allocate roughly \$2M (the amount varies depending on the circumstances) on top of the schools' existing



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1 funding towards menstruation products (following passed Bill S.2491) for the  
2 implementation of this Act.

3

4 Section 6: Penalties

5 Schools will be responsible for enforcing this policy; if schools fail to do so, they will  
6 be placed on a watch list moderated by DESE for one year. If schools do not make  
7 substantial progress in fulfilling these requirements there will be a 5% of their  
8 yearly revenue.

9

10 Section 7: Effective date

11 This bill will go into effect at the start of the 2025 school year; however, the  
12 timeline for the implementation may depend on the school and its varying  
13 circumstances.

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**Senate Bill #12 Committee 3**

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**Sponsors:** Alejandra Fernandez

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** Title: An Act To: Implement Anticimex SMART boxes for rodent control in all public K–12 schools in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Section 1: For the purpose of this bill, the following definitions shall apply, Subsection A: “Anticimex SMART Box” shall be defined as a pest control and multi-catch device that is placed above the ground to detect and trap multiple rodents. Anticimex SMART boxes use non-toxic bait outside to lure rodents into the box, where the device detects movements and activates an electrical current to kill the rodent. This smart unit collects data on rodent captures whenever it detects rodents and sends it to a smart data hub, where data is stored. Subsection B: “Schools” shall be defined as schools in the Massachusetts public school system that are government-funded free schools that include primary education starting in kindergarten and secondary education ending in grade 12. Schools operate within districts governed by locally elected school boards and superintendents. According to research from the National Center for Education Statistics and the US Census Bureau, in 2022, Massachusetts had a total of 1,751 schools in 316 districts.

**Section 2:** Section 2: Rats and mice carry more than 35 diseases that can spread to people directly: through the handling of rodents; contact with rodent feces, urine, or saliva by breathing in air or eating food that is contaminated with rodent waste; or rodent bites. Rodents can also carry ticks, mites, or fleas that can act as channels to spread diseases between rodents and people. Rodent complaints come from all different neighborhoods, including South Boston, Jamaica Plain, Dorchester, Beacon Hill, Roxbury, etc. Food is an especially motivating factor for rodents, and school cafeterias create significant amounts of edible waste. In schools in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, multiple rodent sightings have been reported, especially in the cafeterias where students get access to their lunch. These schools include South Elementary School in Stoneham, Braintree High School in Braintree, and many more. The presence of rats in schools is of high concern, as the larger the infestation grows, the more pathogens there are to go around, therefore posing a serious risk to public health. Moreover, reports of rodent activity and rat bites have risen sharply in recent years; the US Census Bureau 2021 American Housing Survey revealed that the city of Boston had 21.6% of rodent sightings, the greatest in the United States, exceeding Chicago, one of the most infected cities, which had 9.5% of sightings. Therefore, the purpose of this bill is to implement Anticimex SMART boxes in public schools to protect the food, shelter, health, and comfort of the people in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



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1 Anticimex SMART boxes predict and prevent costly infestations in an  
2 environmentally friendly way, as the use of this technology helps reduce the  
3 number of preventive rodenticide measures taken, which means fewer chemicals  
4 are used overall. This system operates at all times of the year, which can contribute  
5 significantly to making schools pest-free while keeping rodents out of schools in an  
6 environmentally friendly and humane way.

7 **Section 3:** Section 3: When the bill goes into effect, the Commonwealth shall take  
8 several actions, as follows: Subsection A: The Anticimex team will conduct a site  
9 inspection and review. They will inspect the locations and review all documentation,  
10 including the designs and blueprints of schools. They will step through a  
11 comprehensive series of questions and then determine the set-up for the Anticimex  
12 SMART boxes based on the unique needs of each school. Subsection B: The  
13 Anticimex team of experiments will come on-site and install in schools the Anticimex  
14 SMART boxes. Subsection C: The Anticimex team will be responsible for analyzing  
15 the data, moving, and emptying traps as needed in each school.

16 **Section 4:** Section 4: Implementation of this bill shall be funded by each local  
17 public school district. As each Anticimex SMART box costs approximately 300 US  
18 dollars, public school districts can receive funds up to 2,000 US dollars from the  
19 Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection if requested by districts  
20 that have mid-high-poverty schools where 50.1–75% of students are eligible for  
21 free or reduced-price lunch and/or high-poverty schools where more than 75% of  
22 the students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch as deemed by the National  
23 Center for Education Statistics.

24 **Section 5:** Section 5: Inspections to confirm the placement of Anticimex SMART  
25 boxes will be conducted by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental  
26 Protection once a year, and schools will be fined five hundred dollars if they do not  
27 comply with placing a minimum of one Anticimex SMART box.

28 **Section 6:** Section 6: This legislature shall go into effect in August 2024 to start  
29 the first phase of planning the implementation of Anticimex SMART boxes in all  
30 schools, and the finalization of this installation will be whenever it is deemed  
31 optimal by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

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**House Bill #13 Committee 4**

**Sponsors:** Fiona Youmell

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** An Act To: Provide 8 weeks of 1/2 maternity leave to the mothers of Massachusetts and 4 weeks of additional unpaid leave

**Section 2:** Section 1: Definitions Maternity leave; a period of absence from work granted to a mother before and after the birth or adoption of her child Employers; a person or organization that employs six or more people

**Section 3:** Section 2: Purpose Paid maternity leave is essential for women as it empowers them to prioritize their health and the well being of their families while continuing to get their full salary during this time they are not able to work. Without this regular pay they and their families will most likely face financial hardships making it difficult to cover expenses to care for a newborn.

**Section 4:** Section 3: Provisions When this bill is passed it will guarantee all employees of Massachusetts fully paid maternity leave from their employers. As of 2024, employees are required to only provide 8 weeks of unpaid maternity leave, meaning that low income families who are already struggling to make ends meet, especially to take care of a child, are having to survive with no guaranteed pay. In January of 2021 Massachuseets passed a bill that would allow eligible families to receive 12 weeks of partial pay. My bill would allow all families this opportunity, as well as a clear amount of pay. The purpose of this bill is to help mothers to be able to spend time and bond with their child while not having to worry about their next meal or the expenses of hospital visits. This bill also offers an optional unpaid 4 weeks off for the mothers if they are able to do so.

**Section 5:** Section 4: Funding This bill would require no funding, but would be covered by the employer themselves. Federal grants could additionally be implemented to assist qualifying smaller businesses.

**Section 6:** Section 5: Penalties If employers don't follow this bill they will be subject to losing their business license and will be required to pay the money to the employees that did not receive the maternity pay, including any costs covering any legal assistance the employees acquired for this issue.

**Section 7:** Section 6: Effective Date Upon passage this bill would go into effect one year following the passage date, giving companies an appropriate time to prepare for this change.





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**Senate Bill #14 Committee 1**

**Sponsors:** Jonathan Mejia Calle

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** Public high schools" refers to educational institutions funded or operated by the state government, serving students in grades 9 through 12.

**Section 2:** Mandate for Mental Health Education All public high schools in Massachusetts shall incorporate mental health education into their curriculum. Mental health education shall cover topics such as understanding mental health disorders, recognizing signs and symptoms, coping mechanisms, destigmatization, seeking help, and resources available for support

**Section 3:** Curriculum Development The Department of Education shall work in collaboration with mental health professionals, educators, students, and relevant stakeholders to develop age-appropriate and evidence-based curriculum guidelines for mental health education. The curriculum shall be flexible to accommodate diverse student needs and cultural backgrounds.

**Section 4:** Implementation Mental health education shall be integrated into existing health education courses or taught as standalone modules. Schools shall provide professional development opportunities for teachers to enhance their knowledge and skills in delivering mental health education effectively. Adequate resources, including instructional materials and support services, shall be allocated to ensure successful implementation.

**Section 5:** Evaluation and Reporting The Department of Education shall regularly evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of mental health education programs in public high schools. Schools shall report on their progress and outcomes related to mental health education to the Department of Education annually

**Section 6:** Funding Necessary funds shall be appropriated from the state budget to support the development, implementation, and evaluation of mental health education programs in public high schools.

**Section 7:** Enforcement If schools comply with this act they'll be awarded a grant of a certain amount of money incentivizing schools to implement this class as a requirement. The Department of Education shall oversee compliance and provide assistance to schools as needed.

**Section 8:** Effective Date This act shall take effect at the beginning of the next academic year following its passage. This bill aims to address the pressing need for mental health education in schools, empowering students with knowledge and skills to take care



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**House Bill #15 Committee 2**

**Sponsors:** Nicholas Duggan

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** Mandate all businesses and public facilities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to be required to implement motion-sensored lights upon constructing new commercial property.

**Section 2:** For the purpose of this bill the following definitions shall apply:

Subsection A: "Motion Sensored Lights" shall be defined as lights that automatically turn on when a person is present and switch off when a room becomes vacant.

Subsection B: "Commercial Property" shall be defined as buildings intended for profit-generating activities rather than regular residential properties. Subsection C:

"Public Facilities" shall be defined as buildings intended for public use.

**Section 3:** The purpose of the bill is to mandate all businesses and public facilities to be required to implement motion sensed lights upon constructing new property. With motion sensed lights, businesses and taxpayers can save money and time in a win-win scenario. Implementing motion detector lights has been shown to have many benefits such as saving energy and providing a universal convenience as well as reducing crime and creating a more safe workplace. According to the US Department of Energy, implementing these lights can typically reduce energy consumption by 35-45 percent. This small change can even reduce energy consumption up to 75 percent. These switches only range from \$20 to \$150 dollars but can have a massive lasting impact as well as permanent returns for those who implement them. In Massachusetts, one of the things we pride ourselves on most is how we are leaders on the front of both climate change and energy conservation. Yet, according to the Energy Information Administration, in 2022, Massachusetts consumed twice as much electricity as it generated. In order to prevent Energy and CO2 emissions from continuing to increase, now is the time to make the switch to more sustainable lights.

**Section 4:** Upon passage of this bill, The Board of Building Regulations and Standards' (BBRS) shall oversee inspections of newly constructed commercial property to ensure there are working automated lights. Subsection A: The Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance(DCAMM) Certification will add Automated Lights as a requirement for new commercial property to get certified.

**Section 5:** No funding will be required from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Individual businesses will be financially responsible for implementing the automatic lights.

**Section 6:** Businesses not in compliance shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than one year or by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars, or both.

**Section 7:** This bill will go into effect in January 2025.



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**Senate Bill #16 Committee 3**

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**Sponsors:** Genesis Florian Castro

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** In Act To: Ensure bail decisions are made in accordance to an individual's financial circumstance using individualized Assessment.

**Section 2:** Section 1 Definitions: Subsection A: Cash Bail referees to the monetary deposit required by the Court to secure the temporary release of someone who is arrested and charged with a criminal offense Subsection B: Community Service; a form of punishment where individuals carry out activities in the community that benefit the community in some way. Subsection C: Extortion refers to the practice of obtaining something, especially money, through force or coercion . Subsection D: Individualized Assessment refers to a

**Section 3:** Section 2 Purpose: Cash bail disproportionately affects low-income individuals who are unable to afford to pay, according to the Pretrial Justice Institute, roughly two-thirds of people in local jails are awaiting trial, many of whom are detained due to inability to pay bail. Many judges don't take into consideration the financial circumstances or financial loss that might occur to an individual, while awaiting for their trial. This bill is important because it will create a more fair and just system where low income individuals don't have to be unnecessarily incarcerated while awaiting trial. Rather than solely rely on cash bail, individualized assessment will look into the financial circumstance of an individual and their likelihood of appearing at trial.

**Section 4:** Section 3 Provisions : Upon passage of this bill Subsection A: Judges will use individualized assessment on bail decision and determine if an individual should be released. This will take into account a defendant's employment status, financial circumstance, risk of leaving the country, criminal history, etc Subsection B: In a situation where a defendant can not afford to pay, the judge finds other options for the individual, for example a reasonable amount of hours of community service.

**Section 5:** Section 4 Funding: There will be no funding as this bill wouldn't be taking away money.

**Section 6:** Section 5 Effective Date: This bill with be enacted in 2025 following its passage into law



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**House Bill #17 Committee 4**

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**Sponsors:** Daniel McLaughlin

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** Definitions “Financial Literacy Course”: An education course designed to teach students about managing their money and equipping them with the skills necessary to make smart financial decisions as they enter adulthood.

**Section 2:** Purpose: This bill hopes to provide students with a baseline understanding of what financial literacy is, and how to make the best decisions financially so they can be well prepared for adulthood. Many young adults find themselves lost and in trouble when it comes to managing their money after high school, such as managing debt. Other problems our young adults face includes student loans, lack of an emergency fund, and poor budget choices.

**Section 3:** Proposal for Action: Seek to partner with local wealth management and financial planning firms (ex. Fidelity) to create a course designed to provide students with a full year of studying financial literacy and how to best apply it to their lives. Students will be able to take this course for a full year as seniors, having classes once per week. It will be required by students to take for a full year in order to graduate.

**Section 4:** Funding: Funding will be provided through partnerships with local wealth management and financial planning firms along with providing volunteers to teach the course.

**Section 5:** Implementation: If this bill were to pass, we would plan to have this course take effect during the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year. The Massachusetts Education Department will oversee implementation of the courses across public schools in Massachusetts.



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**Senate Bill #18 Committee 1**

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**Sponsors:** Pampam San

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** An Act to: Eliminate the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System from the State Academic Standards

**Section 2:** Definitions: Subsection A: "Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS)" shall be defined as a statewide standardized testing program used in Massachusetts to assess students in subjects like English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science and Technology/Engineering. Subsection B: "State Academic Standards" shall be defined as a set of expectations and guidelines established by state education authorities to outline what students in each grade level should meet. Subsection C: "Eliminate" shall be defined as complete removal.

**Section 3:** Purpose: The purpose of this bill is to eliminate the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System. from the state academic standards. For the last 31 years, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has made The Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System a requirement for students to graduate high school. MCAS is a standardized test that is used to assess and measure the capabilities of students from grades 3-10 in subjects like English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and Science and Technology/Engineering. Students in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts typically dedicate 1-4 days of their school year to take this mandated standardized test with many days or even weeks prior for preparation. Unfortunately, many students are being prevented from graduating high school and pursuing post secondary plans because they are not passing this standardized test, known as MCAS. Ever since the pandemic, the state has realized the decline of academic performance in students, yet they still decide to fund MCAS and encourage students to take it, without taking any action to improve their poor academic performance. Annually, our state spends nearly 30 million dollars from taxpayers, state funding and federal funding to fund for this standardized test. Although we spend this amount of our money funding MCAS, year after year since the pandemic, nothing has changed in our academic performance. Our performance is showing us that our students are struggling, yet we are doing nothing. Rather than using this money for the MCAS, we should use this funding to pay our teachers properly and for resources and programs that will ultimately help improve the overall performance of our students.

**Section 4:** Provisions: Subsection A: The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education system will ultimately remove MCAS from the



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- 1 expectations and guidelines of what students are required to know in order to
- 2 graduate High School. Subsection B: MCAS will no longer be created.
- 3 Subsection C: No student shall be mandated to take the MCAS and if they presume
- 4 to do so, it cannot be a factor in determining whether or not they are to graduate
- 5 high school. Subsection D: The funding that goes towards MCAS would instead
- 6 go towards funding teachers in order to adhere to the current nationwide teacher
- 7 shortage to try and end it and also for resources that will help improve the
- 8 academic performance of students.
- 9 **Section 5:** Fiscal Implications: This bill does not require direct funding. The
- 10 Commonwealth Of Massachusetts will instead be re-gaining funding as nearly 30
- 11 million dollars will no longer be allocated towards MCAS.
- 12 **Section 6:** Effective Date: This legislation shall be in effect in the following
- 13 academic school year of 2024-2025.





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**House Bill #19 Committee 2**

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**Sponsors:** Darsh Manocha

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS (a) Animal testing shall refer to the use of animals in testing products' safety for human use, mainly cosmetics and household items. (b) Business shall refer to a company, particularly one in the cosmetics and household items market. (c) Product shall refer to a marketed item tested on animals. (d) Association/Organization shall refer to an organized body of people who use animals to test any product prior to use on humans.

**Section 2:** SECTION 2. PURPOSE The purpose of this bill is to limit the use of animal testing and encourage the use of alternative testing methods, saving millions of animals from suffering and death.

**Section 3:** SECTION 3: LIMITATIONS ON ANIMAL TESTING (a) Incentives for Alternatives: Companies opting out of animal testing will receive tax incentives and favorable treatment in government contracts. They may also qualify for grants and accolades recognizing their commitment to employing alternative testing methods. (b) Promotion of Alternative Methods: Government funding will be allocated to educational initiatives aimed at raising awareness about alternative testing methods. Collaborative research endeavors will be encouraged to accelerate the development and adoption of innovative non-animal testing technologies. (c) Transparency and Accountability: Companies engaged in animal testing must publicly disclose comprehensive information regarding their testing practices, fostering transparency and accountability. Progress towards reducing animal testing will be regularly monitored and assessed by government authorities. (d) Research and Development Grants: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts shall allocate funding to support research and development initiatives focused on advancing alternative testing methods. Grants will be awarded to institutions, organizations, and individuals conducting innovative research aimed at reducing reliance on animal testing and promoting the use of alternative approaches. (e) Education and Training Programs: Government funding shall be earmarked for the development and implementation of education and training programs aimed at enhancing awareness and expertise in alternative testing methods. These programs will target scientists, researchers, and industry professionals, providing them with the necessary knowledge and skills to transition away from animal testing towards more humane and scientifically advanced methodologies. (f) Public Engagement and Advocacy: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts shall launch public engagement and advocacy campaigns to raise awareness about the ethical, scientific, and economic implications of animal testing. These campaigns will aim to



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1 mobilize public support for the adoption of alternative testing methods and  
2 encourage consumers to make informed choices by supporting companies that  
3 prioritize animal welfare and ethical testing practices.

4 **Section 4:** SECTION 4. FISCAL IMPLICATIONS Funding shall be required for this  
5 bill from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to create a subdivision of the  
6 Massachusetts Division of Animal Health dedicated to enforcing the limitations on  
7 animal testing. An increased tax on alcohol and tobacco products shall be put into  
8 effect to compensate for the tax benefits awarded to organizations that do not use  
9 animal testing.

10 **Section 5:** SECTION 5: ENFORCEMENT (a) Regulatory Oversight: The  
11 Commonwealth of Massachusetts shall establish a regulatory body responsible for  
12 overseeing the enforcement of this Act. This body shall have the authority to  
13 conduct inspections, investigations, and audits to ensure compliance with the  
14 provisions outlined in this bill. (b) Compliance Measures: All businesses and  
15 organizations engaged in animal testing shall be required to register with the  
16 regulatory body and provide detailed information regarding their testing practices,  
17 including the number of animals used and the methods employed. Failure to  
18 register or comply with reporting requirements may result in penalties, including  
19 fines and license revocation. (c) Public Reporting: The regulatory body shall  
20 publish annual reports summarizing the state of animal testing within the  
21 Commonwealth of Massachusetts, including statistics on the number of animals  
22 used, trends in alternative testing methods, and any enforcement actions taken.  
23 These reports shall be made available to the public to ensure transparency and  
24 accountability.

25 **Section 6:** SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE This Act shall become effective at the  
26 beginning of the year subsequent to its passage.



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**Senate Bill #20 Committee 3**

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**Sponsors:** Felipe Sathler

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** An Act To Integrate a Comprehensive Critical Race Theory Curriculum in Massachusetts Public Schools History Classes.

**Section 2:** Section 2: Definitions Subsection A: "Comprehensive Curriculum" shall be defined as a written plan that guides the design of children's goals for learning and development Subsection B: "History classes" shall be defined as classes 5-12 that teach the events of the past as well as the role of government and citizens in society Subsection C: "Massachusetts Public Schools" Shall be defined as any school that receives state funding for its resources and programs. Subsection E: "Critical Race Theory" shall be defined as a set of ideas holding that racial bias is inherent in many parts of Western society, especially in its legal and social institutions, based on their having been primarily designed for and implemented by white people.

**Section 3:** Section 3: Purpose Given the country's current war on education in recent years it is more important than ever to pass comprehensive educational reform. Teaching Critical Race Theory helps students learn and understand the pervasive role of race and racism in society, as well as offering students a comprehensive perspective on historical issues of social justice and inequality. Teaching CRT promotes empathy and understanding, and other skills that will be beneficial later in life. Many students do not know or understand the significance of movements like the Chicano Movement or the Asian American Political Alliance movements that worked to fight against the United States government and pushed for more equal legislation. This is a product of environment, providing more comprehensive education allows students of color to become better familiarized with their history within America. My bill hopes to amend that and provide students with a better understanding of their history, creating a more racially aware and inclusive society.

**Section 4:** Section 4: Provisions Upon Passage of this bill, the Massachusetts Department of Education (DESE) shall ensure the carrying of this bill Subsection A: DESE shall revise the current history Massachusetts standards to incorporate CRT into the statewide standards Subsection B: Each School Board and its History Department will co-design its curriculum in accordance with these standards Subsection C: Teachers will be provided a curriculum to teach and have access to resources to help them understand the material themselves

**Section 5:** Section 5: Fiscal Implications Upon passage of this bill, the Massachusetts Department of Education shall fund any additional resources and



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- 1 information needed. The amount of funding schools receive will be done on a
- 2 school-by-school basis and schools must apply for this funding using a
- 3 comprehensive application process created and monitored by DESE.
- 4 **Section 6:** Section 6: Penalty Schools will be responsible for enforcing this policy;
- 5 if schools fail to do so, they will be placed on a watch list moderated by DESE for
- 6 one year. If schools do not make substantial progress in fulfilling these
- 7 requirements they will be fined 10% of their yearly revenue with an additional 10%
- 8 added to the fine for each year of non-compliance.
- 9 **Section 7:** Section 7: Effective Date This bill shall go into effect in 3 school years
- 10 after it passes the 27-28 School Year.



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**House Bill #21 Committee 4**

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**Sponsors:** Henry Wallis

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** An Act to: Establish a State-wide Textile Recycling Pickup Service & Expand Existing Textile Recycling Efforts

**Section 2:** For the purpose of this bill, the following definitions shall apply.

Subsection A: "Textile Products" refers to any fabric-based items, including but not limited to clothing, linens, towels, and accessories. Subsection B: "Pickup Service" refers to a comprehensive and state-funded program designed to collect and recycle textile products from residential areas. Subsection C: "Collection Centers" refer to designated locations where residents can drop off textile products for recycling.

**Section 3:** The purpose of this bill is to address the environmental impact of discarded textile products and promote sustainable waste management practices across Massachusetts. With the recent prohibition of disposing textile products in regular waste combined with the distinct lack of existing collection centers, there is a pressing need to establish an efficient and accessible statewide textile recycling pickup service. This initiative aims to reduce textile waste, conserve resources, and contribute to the overall environmental well-being of the state.

**Section 4:** Upon passage of this bill the the following provisions shall apply:

Subsection A: The Department of Environmental Protection shall oversee the establishment and management of all operations Subsection B: The program shall operate city-by-city and collaborate with municipal governments for effective implementation. Subsection C: A regular and predetermined schedule for textile product collection shall be established for each participating city to ensure consistent and widespread coverage. Subsection D: Collection services shall be made available at least once a week, mirroring existing recycling protocols. Subsection E: The expansion and establishment of various new collection centers will take place to ensure the stability and smoothness of the operation.

**Section 5:** The service will be funded through state appropriations, with the Department of Environmental Protection allocated a budget for program implementation and maintenance. Municipalities participating in the program shall receive financial support from the state, proportional to their population and level of engagement in the Statewide Textile Recycling Pickup Service. No additional fees will be imposed directly on residents for utilizing the textile recycling pickup service. The state will absorb the operational costs of the program. Any surplus funds generated from the surcharge, after meeting the program's financial needs, will be



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1 directed towards furthering textile recycling education and innovation within the  
2 state.

3 **Section 6:** In the event of non-compliance or challenges faced by municipalities in  
4 adhering to the collection schedule, the Department of Environmental Protection  
5 shall provide technical assistance and resources to address and overcome  
6 obstacles. This will ensure the smooth operation of the recycling pickup service.  
7 Municipalities demonstrating consistent and effective participation in the Statewide  
8 Textile Recycling Pickup Service shall be eligible for additional state funding to  
9 enhance their local recycling programs. If continuous con-compliance is occurring,  
10 direct state intervention will be necessary.

11 **Section 7:** This act shall go into effect six months after its passage. This will allow  
12 for a transitional period during which municipalities and residents can prepare for  
13 the implementation of the service.

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**House Bill #22 Committee 1**

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**Sponsors:** Farren Pierce

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** Section 1: Section 1A of Chapter 40A of the Massachusetts General Laws is amended by: "ADUs", otherwise known as "Accessory Dwelling Units", which is defined as a smaller secondary, self contained housing unit that is located on a single family's property. Along with the "housing crisis" is defined as the increase of housing prices, and the need for more housing for families and individuals.

**Section 2:** Section 2: Section 21 of Chapter 40B of the Massachusetts General Laws is amended by: It's importance, because there is a massive shortage of homes in Massachusetts currently, many people also struggle to afford homes due to the increase in housing and rent. By building more homes, installing ADUs, and lowering the cost of housing, more people shall have easier access to a stable and comforting roof over their head.

**Section 3:** Section 3: Section 21 of Chapter 40B of the Massachusetts General Laws is amended by: What shall happen is that the approval of housing shall be easier, and there shall be an increase in buildings for families and individuals in areas where there are high demands for jobs. Housing units, like apartments, that are currently not being used and need renovations shall be open and be properly taken care of to suit a persons' or family's needs. ADUs shall be built in more populated areas but they shall also be accessible in suburban Town based on how the Town decides to act. ADUs shall increase the supply of housing, and are more affordable than a standard single family home. And lastly, the cost of housing and rent shall decrease so homes are more affordable for the citizens of Massachusetts, and for those who are looking to find a place in the Commonwealth.

**Section 4:** Section 4: The bill shall receive funding through taxes and donations. Taxes on marijuana, cigarettes, vapes, and alcohol shall increase and donations shall be set up to encourage people to contribute to the greater change in the Commonwealth.

**Section 5:** Section 5: Bill H.1379 192cd of General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is amended by: The need that it would go into effect as soon as possible. There are more two hundred thousand people on the waitlist for housing, which means over the next six years that's how many homes that must be built for residents of Massachusetts. But by twenty forty twice as many households shall need to be built. If costs do not decrease and housing doesn't increase then there certainly shall be an influx of people leaving the Commonwealth or losing their homes.



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**Senate Bill #23 Committee 2**

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**Sponsors:** Harrison Ashley

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** definitions Subsection A: A “protected bike lane” shall be defined as a bike lane that has a physical barrier between itself and motor traffic that is also physically or visually separated from the sidewalk. It should provide safe and ample space for bike traffic. Subsection B: Walkable and or walkability shall be defined as pertaining to how suitable an area is for foot traffic, how capable one would be of walking in this area. Subsection C: major roadway shall be defined as an integral road, any road that has major motor traffic, offers a route no other does or has essential services upon its route.

**Section 2:** purpose Massachusetts hosts some of the most walkable and dense neighborhoods in the United States however, we are severely lacking in bike infrastructure. Greater Boston and the state as a whole hosts an overwhelming amount of people who commute via bicycle. Yet, as a state we have failed to create adequate bike infrastructure to ensure the safety of these residents. Many existing bike lanes across Massachusetts aren’t safe and have riders share space with mortar traffic; this coupled with the fact that many cities and towns across the commonwealth don’t have any bike infrastructure has led to an average of seven bicyclist fatalities per year in Massachusetts according to Mass.gov. This bill's purpose is to mend the neglect of bike infrastructure that has led to this damage to our community which will in turn strengthen our community from here on out.

**Section 3:** provisions Upon passage of the bill, all cities and towns within Massachusetts will be required to build protected bike lanes on all major roadways in said cities and towns within ten years of the bill’s passage.

**Section 4:** fiscal implications Upon this bill’s passage cities and towns within Massachusetts will fund this endeavor. Enforcement of the bill shall fall upon the state of Massachusetts.

**Section 5:** penalty Upon failure to meet the bill’s requirements, the city or town will be cut off from state funding until the requirements are met.

**Section 6:** Effective date The bill shall go into effect immediately, after which cities and towns have ten years to adhere to the bill’s demands.



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**House Bill #24 Committee 3**

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**Sponsors:** Liam Evans

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** Service Animal: an animal that has been trained to assist a person who has a physical or mental disability Exotic animal: an animal which is relatively rare or unusual to keep, or is generally thought of as a wild species rather than as a domesticated pet

**Section 2:** This bill is so important because exotic animals may be able to fulfill certain physical or emotional needs that ordinary, more conventional service animals would not be able to.

**Section 3:** Loosen the current restriction from a service animal only being a dog to being any animal who has potential to aid a person with medical or emotional disabilities. This would include animals with enhanced senses of smell or sight, such as pigs and birds, or enhanced mobility, communication, and motor skills, such as species of primates. Loosen the restrictions that public spaces place on exotic animals, allowing exotic service animals the same access to any space a conventional service animal has access to. Prevent the discrimination against exotic service animals by placing the same fine on discriminating against exotic service animals as on conventional service animals Create public stands where people can find basic needs for their animals such as water, and resources to clean up after their service animals go to the bathroom.

**Section 4:** As a service animal is a form of medical treatment, the cost of owning an exotic service animal would fall upon the individual and their medical insurance to fund the ownership of an exotic animal. Maintenance for these service animals and cleaning up after them in public spaces will be provided by individuals sentenced to community service.

**Section 5:** The punishment for discriminating against exotic service animals as a business owner would be the same punishment as discriminating against a conventional service animal. This punishment is a \$75,000 fine for the first offense and a \$150,000 fine for the second offense.

**Section 6:** This bill would go into effect gradually over the course of this year so as to give businesses and public infrastructure ample time to adjust to the inclusion of exotic service animals in everyday society



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**Senate Bill #25 Committee 4**

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**Sponsors:** Cynthia Chen

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** Mandate each local government in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to remove aquatic trash from its local water source monthly.

**Section 2:** Subsection A: Aquatic trash refers to solid or liquid waste that flows into the rain sewage system and flows directly into the water without receiving treatment. Subsection B: Water source refers to bodies of water that provide water to public utilities, such as rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs, springs, and groundwater. Subsection C: Local refers to belonging not confined to a particular place.

**Section 3:** Throughout the years rivers have been the major source of plastic waste in the oceans, between 0.8 to 2.7 million metric per year. In 2023, there were approximately 500 million kilograms of plastic and microplastics flown into the ocean, and approximately almost 600 million pounds of plastic pollution floating on the ocean’s surface. Around 8 million pieces of plastic invade the ocean every day, causing a billion deaths of aquatic species due to the chemicals and litter from the plastic. This is known as aquatic trash, the consequence of improper disposal procedures of disposal and poor security that lead to the capture of litter in stormwater resulting from the rain. Some plastics release carcinogenic chemicals that may cause developmental, reproductive, neurological, and immune disorders in both humans and wildlife. Water provides eco-service opportunities for water-based recreation and cultural practices such as swimming in rivers and the well-known sport of rowing. For these reasons, it is necessary to maintain the pure nature of any water source as much as possible through governmental responsibility in removing aquatic trash from its local water source monthly to protect the environment and the people.

**Section 4:** Subsection A: Under the Clean Water Act, the federal, state, and local governments share responsibility for clean water. Subsection B: The local governments in Massachusetts will hire 30 to 50 people depending on the size of the river to remove aquatic trash at the end of each month. Subsection C: Hire an expert to use the pH scale ranging from 0 to 14 with 7 being neutral to test the water quality. The optimum pH for river water is around 7.4, and the national guidelines recommend a pH of 6.5 to 9 for the protection of aquatic life in freshwater. Experts will ensure the river is at proper range.

**Section 5:** Each local government that has water sources in its city or town can apply for funds, receiving a maximum of 100 thousand dollars from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).



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- 1 **Section 6:** Subsection A: If the water is tested being above or low in pH for the
- 2 first time, the Board of Massachusetts Environmental will issue a warning to the
- 3 local government. Subsection B: The city will be fined \$10,000 if the water quality
- 4 does not qualify for the second time and so forth.
- 5 **Section 7:** This bill should be activated immediately after it is passed, and the
- 6 process of removing aquatic waste and monthly check-ups on the river should
- 7 begin in January of the year 2025.
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**House Bill #26 Committee 1**

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**Sponsors:** Arya Shah

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** An act to mandate all public institutions of higher learning in Massachusetts to adopt test-optional admissions policies.

**Section 2:** Definitions: Subsection A: "Public Institutions of Higher Learning" shall be defined as any public university or college offering undergraduate programs within Massachusetts. Subsection B: "Test-Optional admissions policy" shall be defined as a policy in which submitting standardized test scores (SAT or ACT) is not required to be considered for admission and in which students will not be unfairly disadvantaged for not submitting a score.

**Section 3:** Purpose: Standardized exams are not an accurate reflection of all students' abilities and are a great cause of anxiety for many students. This bill is essential to enhance diversity, equity, and inclusivity within Massachusetts' public institutions of higher learning. Research has consistently shown that test-optional policies lead to significant increases in applications from underrepresented groups without compromising academic quality. For instance, a study by the American Educational Research Journal found a 10-12% increase in underrepresented racial/ethnic backgrounds at colleges that adopted test-optional policies. Additionally, the Urban Institute reported that the number of test-optional colleges doubled since spring 2023, significantly impacting public institutions' selectivity and diversity. Implementing test-optional policies across all public institutions in Massachusetts will promote a more equitable higher education system, reflecting the diverse society we serve. Furthermore, the Director of Undergraduate Admission at the University of Connecticut and board chair of the National Association for College Admission Counseling stated that test-optional policies have not caused any drops in student's performances.

**Section 4:** Implementation Subsection A: All public institutions of higher learning in Massachusetts shall implement test-optional admissions policies by the academic year 2025-2026. Subsection B: The Massachusetts Department of Education will monitor the implementation of test-optional policies and further assess their impact on diversity and academic quality.

**Section 5:** Fiscal Implications: No additional funding is required for the implementation of this act. Institutions will redirect existing resources to support the holistic review of applicants.

**Section 6:** Penalties: Any public Institution of higher learning that places students who do not submit standardized test scores at an unfair disadvantage will be subject to reevaluation by the Massachusetts Department of Education.



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- 1 **Section 7:** Effective date: This act shall take effect from the beginning of the
- 2 academic year 2025-2026, allowing institutions ample time for preparation and
- 3 policy adjustment.





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**Senate Bill #27 Committee 2**

**Sponsors:** Govind Menon

***The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:***

**Section 1:** SECTION 1. PURPOSE The purpose of this bill is to severely limit (a) the use of technology as a reward in classes for grades 3 to 5 and further (b) to eliminate all technology and screen-based “education” or entertainment in daycares and preschools for children zero to five and elementary classrooms K-2 within the Commonwealth. For higher grades such as grades three to five, students will have access to devices like iPads and Chromebooks with limited usage time. This bill is intended to stop the distraction of addictive technology for children during the earliest years of their life, and for them to not be purely motivated by the reward of screen time. Additional benefits of this bill also include children learning how to self-soothe and calm down without the aid of technology, as well as interact socially, all of which are best learned in a no-tech and/or low-tech environment. To this end, all technology is banned from all daycares and preschools that serve children 0-5. Further, all technology is also banned from elementary classrooms K-2. Students will start to be able to use technology from grade 3 in a limited way for educational purposes like learning essential skills like typing, researching information effectively, or critically evaluating digital sources. From grade 3 to 5, technology use in the classroom is limited to one hour per school day. More than one-third of parents with a child under 12 say their child began interacting with a smartphone before age 5 according to the Pews Research Center. The National Library of Medicine has said “Additionally, excessive screen usage has detrimental effects on social and emotional growth, including a rise in the likelihood of obesity, sleep disorders, and mental health conditions including depression and anxiety. It can obstruct the ability to interpret emotions, fuel aggressive conduct, and harm one's psychological health in general. Setting boundaries, utilizing parental controls, and demonstrating good screen behavior are all techniques that parents may use to manage children's screen usage.” The following quote is from a 2021 article by ChoicesProject.org: “Every child should have opportunities to grow up at a healthy weight. Too much screen time in early childhood is linked to overweight and obesity, as it reduces opportunities for children to be active and advertisement exposure can lead children to eat and drink more unhealthy foods. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends limiting screen time to one hour of quality programming per day in childcare and at home for children over 2 years old. Less than half of children ages 2-5 met this guideline.” Many studies also suggest that there are numerous health concerns related to excessive screen time such as eye strain or sleep problems which is amplified among young children. Since home technology use is beyond our control, prioritizing developmentally appropriate learning through limited tech exposure in the Commonwealth’s daycares, preschools, and elementary schools can build strong social and learning foundational skills for young children.



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1 **Section 2:** SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS (a) "Severely Limit" means completely removing  
2 technology from the classroom and the hands of students/children. (b) "Technology"  
3 i.e., iPads, Phones, Tablets, and laptops.

4 **Section 3:** SECTION 3. LIMITATIONS ON THE TECHNOLOGY REDUCTION This Bill also  
5 acknowledges some potential limitations that can slow its implementation: (A)  
6 Challenges in Teaching Methods: Teachers may require additional training to adapt to  
7 no-tech and low-tech methods. Furthermore, the bill should also consider the difficulty  
8 of replicating the engaging content and educational value of digital resources like  
9 Sesame Street and Khan Academy Kids in a low-tech environment, if those tools  
10 become unavailable. (B) Special Needs: Technology can be a valuable tool for  
11 students with special needs. The bill might need to consider exceptions or alternative  
12 tools to ensure inclusivity.

13 **Section 4:** SECTION 4. ALTERNATIVE ENTERTAINMENT OPTIONS (a) More books:  
14 Efforts must be made to increase donations from local bookstores and households  
15 through book drives to have more books in the classroom. (b) Games and Activities:  
16 Board games, card games, educational puzzles, dramatic play, charades, Pictionary,  
17 and group storytelling are all fun ways to keep students engaged while reinforcing  
18 concepts. (c) Manipulatives and Models: Physical objects like blocks, puzzles, and maps  
19 can help students visualize abstract concepts and develop spatial reasoning skills.  
20 (d) Field Studies: A \$5 tax imposed on technological purposes over \$100 can also be  
21 used to take learning outdoors and do more school trips. Students can observe nature,  
22 collect data, and conduct experiments in a real-world setting

23 **Section 5:** SECTION 5. ENFORCEMENT (a) This bill shall be enforced by training  
24 elementary teachers and early childhood educators about the addictive effects of  
25 technology on the brains of young children and providing alternate options to educate  
26 and entertain them.

27 **Section 6:** SECTION 6. FUNDING Funding shall be required for this bill from the  
28 Commonwealth of Massachusetts to provide alternate education and entertainment  
29 options for teachers to give to students. Funding options include a minor tax on  
30 technological purchases over \$100. The money made from the tax will be used to buy  
31 books, educational manipulatives, puzzles, and craft supplies for the classroom. The  
32 federal government also offers grants to support a wide range of education-related  
33 programs at the state and local levels. Researching relevant grant programs and  
34 applying can be a good way to secure funding via <https://www.grants.gov/>. There will  
35 also be significant cost savings from not having to purchase, maintain, update, or  
36 replace computers, tablets, and software licenses or train teachers in educational  
37 technology for K-2 classrooms, and severely reducing the quantity of technology used  
38 in Grades 3 to 5. This can also be diverted in funding this bill to provide alternative  
39 activities that increase focus, social interaction, creativity, critical thinking, and  
40 communication skills among elementary students.

41 **Section 7:** SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE This Act shall become effective at the  
42 beginning of the year after its passage.



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**House Bill #28 Committee 3**

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**Sponsors:** Aldino Talic

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** An Act To: Make housing more affordable within Greater Boston Area

**Section 2:** For the purpose of this bill the following definition will apply:

Subsection A: Lower Class- Bottom 20% earner within Boston district Subsection

B: Middle Class- Annual Income under \$100,000 Subsection C: Economically disadvantaged-Single parent- Disabilities or any factors that contribute to lower income gain. Subsection D: Standard of living-The set degree that fits when a person is able to afford other necessities or comforts.

**Section 3:** The purpose of my bill is to provide more opportunities to create affordable homes for people especially those who are in-need or are economically disadvantaged who would benefit heavily from this bill as well as the general population too. With the increasement of inflation with the population in Massachusetts homes are becoming more expensive causing one more financial stress to require a home as well can even cause for some to not be able to live in one either. With as well the never ending increment of rent and payment of homes in the looming future may further increase our poverty in Massachusetts and hinder new in-coming immigrants. Furthermore, only around 62.4% of people in Massachusetts were recorded from the U.S Census own a home in Massachusetts with this bill would allow more chances for the 37.6% of Massachusetts Adult Population to obtain a home.

**Section 4:** Subsection A: By increasing general fund appropriations for housing would allow for more affordable housing while lowering the cost of homes substantially with this. Subsection B: Adopting multiyear, General-obligations housing bonds would allow for movement of bonds from the government in order to finance a household for a certain duration of years to someone with a much easier bond to pay off. Subsection C: Createment of more homes would allow for more supply of homes especially in the Boston Region which has large demand for housing but little supply creating expensive housing for many. These new homes shall be primarily built with apartment like style in order to allow for more housing space with fitting the needs of standard of living. Furthermore, homes shall be built in unrestricted lands in cities.

**Section 5:** This bill will primarily be using government funding using bonds from National Treasure in order to produce the resources needed for our bill. As such no tax increment would be needed on the people as this bill is primarily trying to help those people.



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1 **Section 6:** According to the GAO for general obligation bonds would take place  
2 every 3 years to be fully enacted so for them it would take around 3 years to  
3 provide those bonds. Whilst creating more homes will also be used on government  
4 bonds such as general fund appropriations which can be used whenever however  
5 creating homes will take time so in about 8 months you would start to see the  
6 starting effects of this bill on housing prices will a large decrease occurring over the  
7 months.  
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**Senate Bill #29 Committee 4**

**Sponsors:** Sarah Henry

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** AN ACT TO: BRIDGE THE GAP OF MENTAL HEALTH OUTREACH AND SUPPORT Section 1. Definitions (a) Community Worker: An individual employed in a profession directly serving individuals in communities, such as teachers, school counselors, youth workers, case managers, social workers, healthcare workers, and first responders.

(b) Underserved Community: A community experiencing disproportionately high rates of mental health conditions and limited access to mental health services due to factors such as income, race, ethnicity, geographic location, language, or immigration status. (c)

Mental Health: a state of mental well-being that enables people to cope with the stresses of life, realize their abilities, learn well and work well, and contribute to their community.

**Section 2:** Section 2: Purpose Underserved communities often lack access to mental health care, or do not know the signs of a crisis. This bill is critical to bridge this gap, reduce stigma, and provide early intervention, ensuring everyone has the support they need to thrive.

**Section 3:** Section 3. Provisions (a) Empowering Community Workers: (i) The Department of Mental Health (DMH), in collaboration with the Department of Education and relevant community organizations, shall develop and implement comprehensive training programs to equip Community Workers with the knowledge and skills to: \* Identify individuals needing mental health services and connect them with therapists, support groups, hotlines, and culturally competent services.

\* Provide education and outreach on mental health in accessible formats and languages, and advocate for access to quality and affordable care for all. (ii) The program shall prioritize training for Community Workers serving in underserved communities, reflecting their specific needs and cultural contexts. (iii) The DMH shall provide ongoing technical assistance and support to Community Workers, ensuring program effectiveness and sustainability. (b) Telehealth Expansion and Accessibility:

(i) The DMH, in collaboration with the Division of Insurance, shall work towards achieving equal coverage for telehealth and in-person mental health services under all health insurance plans offered in the Commonwealth using a phased approach to achieving equal coverage, starting with specific insurance plans or service categories (e.g., initial consultations) and gradually expanding over time.

(ii) The Department of Public Health (DPH) shall develop and implement educational campaigns, in collaboration with community-based organizations, to raise



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1 awareness about the benefits and accessibility of telehealth for mental health  
2 services, particularly in underserved communities. (iii) All  
3 telehealth services provided under this Act will comply with existing HIPAA  
4 regulations and relevant state and federal privacy laws. The Department of Mental  
5 Health (DMH) will collaborate with healthcare providers to ensure data security  
6 measures are in place to protect patient information. (c) Mental Health First Aid  
7 (MHFA) Training Expansion: (i) The DMH, in collaboration with the Department of  
8 Education and other relevant agencies, shall expand the existing statewide Mental  
9 Health First Aid (MHFA) training program.  
10 (ii)The training will equip individuals to recognize early warning signs of mental  
11 health conditions, provide initial support, and connect individuals with resources  
12 and professional help. (iii) The program shall prioritize partnerships with  
13 community-based organizations and training to ensure culturally appropriate  
14 delivery of MHFA.

15 **Section 4:** Section 4. Funding (a) The estimated costs associated with this  
16 initiative comes to around 50 million to include, comprehensive training programs  
17 for Community Workers, telehealth expansion, and the expansion of the Mental  
18 Health First Aid training program. Developing and implementing training programs,  
19 with an estimated budget ranging from \$5-10 million. The initiative to achieve  
20 equal coverage for telehealth and in-person mental health services, in collaboration  
21 with the Division of Insurance, is estimated to cost between \$10-20 million.  
22 Expanding the Mental Health First Aid training program, is estimated to require a  
23 budget in the range of \$3-7 million. Administrative costs related to program  
24 coordination and management are anticipated to be in the range of \$2-5 million.  
25 Therefore, the total estimated funding required for the successful implementation of  
26 this Act is around \$50 million. (b) In addition the DMH will actively seek  
27 supplemental funding from federal grants and other sources to ensure the  
28 sustainability and effectiveness of the outlined initiatives.

29 **Section 5:** Section 5. Penalties Considering the critical nature of mental health  
30 outreach and support, and to ensure the effective implementation of this Act, the  
31 Department of Mental Health (DMH) is empowered to enforce compliance.  
32 Violations or negligence in fulfilling the outlined provisions of this Act may result in  
33 penalties commensurate with the severity and impact of the non-compliance. The  
34 DMH is authorized to recommend adjustments to penalties based on the nature and  
35 frequency of violations. To enhance accountability, the DMH shall submit annual  
36 reports to the Legislature on the implementation of this Act, highlighting any  
37 instances of non-compliance and the corresponding penalties imposed. The  
38 Legislature reserves the right to amend penalties as deemed necessary to uphold  
39 the integrity and success of mental health outreach and support efforts in  
40 underserved communities across Massachusetts.





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**House Bill #30 Committee 1**

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**Sponsors:** Matthew Marter, Eson Tang

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** Section 1: Purpose: The proposed largest nuclear power plant aims to bridge energy gaps by providing a robust and reliable electricity supply. Unlike intermittent renewable sources, nuclear power operates continuously, ensuring stability even during peak demand periods. By reinforcing energy security, the plant would contribute significantly to the state’s economic growth and quality of life. Nuclear energy is a clean and low-carbon power source. The largest plant would play a pivotal role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Take into consideration that this would prevent the emission of over 470 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, equivalent to taking 100 million cars off the road. As Massachusetts strives to combat climate change, embracing nuclear power becomes a strategic move toward a more sustainable future. Additionally, the nuclear industry is a major employer, supporting nearly half a million jobs across the United States. Locally, this plant would create high-paying jobs for Massachusetts residents. Approximately 700 workers would be employed during construction and operation. These jobs not only provide financial stability but also encourage expertise in nuclear technologies. In 2021, Massachusetts had a total summer capacity of 13,002 megawatts across all power plants. This nuclear power plant would diversify the state’s energy mix, complementing natural gas, solar, and wind. It contributes not only to grid stability but also to the state’s energy independence. The proposed nuclear power plant represents more than just electricity generation. It signifies progress, environmental management, and economic prosperity. By hosting the largest plant, Massachusetts can be a leader in clean energy, creating jobs, and securing a brighter future for its citizens. These benefits extend beyond electricity generation, impacting the lives of all citizens in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

**Section 2:** Section 2: Establishment of the Massachusetts Nuclear Reactor Project: (2a.) The Massachusetts Nuclear Reactor Project is hereby established to oversee the planning, development, construction, operation, and maintenance of the largest nuclear reactor in the state of Massachusetts. (2a.i.) Shall prioritize the adoption of advanced technologies and best practices to optimize the performance and safety of the nuclear reactor facility. (2b.) The project shall be funded through a combination of public and private investment, with the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources overseeing the allocation of public funds. (2c.) The funding model for the project shall consist of a public-private partnership, wherein the state of Massachusetts shall hold a majority ownership stake in the nuclear reactor.





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1 Private investors shall be invited to participate in the project through equity  
2 investment and financing arrangements. (2d.) The nuclear power plant shall  
3 encompass an expansive area, featuring a reactor with a planned capacity  
4 exceeding 1.9 gigawatts (GW), surpassing the footprint and output capacity of any  
5 existing nuclear facility in the United States, thus making it the largest in the  
6 country.

7 **Section 3:** Section 3: Environmental Impact Assessment: (3a.) Prior to the  
8 commencement of construction, a comprehensive environmental impact  
9 assessment shall be conducted to evaluate the potential ecological and social  
10 impacts of the nuclear reactor project. (3b.) The assessment shall be carried out in  
11 accordance with state and federal environmental regulations and shall include  
12 public consultation and input.

13 **Section 4:** Section 4: Regulatory Oversight: (4a.) The Executive Office of Energy  
14 and Environmental Affairs (EEA) shall be responsible for regulating and overseeing  
15 all aspects of the Massachusetts Nuclear Reactor Project, including safety, security,  
16 and environmental compliance. (4b.) The EEA shall have the authority to issue  
17 permits, licenses, and approvals necessary for the construction, operation, and  
18 maintenance of the nuclear reactor. In concordance with other related local, state,  
19 and or federal agencies.

20 **Section 5:** Section 5: Safety and Security Measures: (5a.) The Massachusetts  
21 Nuclear Reactor Project shall implement rigorous safety and security measures to  
22 protect the public, workers, and the environment from potential hazards associated  
23 with nuclear energy. (5b.) The project shall comply with all applicable state and  
24 federal safety and security regulations and shall undergo regular inspections and  
25 audits to ensure compliance.

26 **Section 6:** Section 6: Financing and Funding: (6a.) In addition to public and  
27 private investment, the state shall impose a temporary surcharge on electricity  
28 consumption to generate additional revenue for the Massachusetts Nuclear Reactor  
29 Project. The surcharge shall be a few cents per kilowatt-hour and shall be levied for  
30 a specified period, as determined by the Massachusetts Department of Energy  
31 Resources. (6a.i.) The revenue generated from the surcharge shall be dedicated  
32 solely to funding the construction, operation, and maintenance of the nuclear  
33 reactor, as well as related infrastructure and workforce development initiatives.

34 **Section 7:** Section 7: Cost Estimates and Control: (7a.) The Massachusetts  
35 Department of Energy Resources, in consultation with relevant stakeholders and  
36 experts, shall conduct a thorough cost estimate for the Massachusetts Nuclear  
37 Reactor Project. This estimate shall include all expenses related to planning,  
38 development, construction, operation, and maintenance of the nuclear reactor, as  
39 well as associated infrastructure and workforce development initiatives. (7b.) The  
40 cost estimate shall be made publicly available and submitted to the Governor and



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1 the Massachusetts Legislature for review. (7c.) The Massachusetts Nuclear  
2 Regulatory Commission shall implement cost control measures to ensure that the  
3 project is completed within the estimated budget. These measures may include  
4 regular cost audits, procurement oversight, and performance evaluations of  
5 contractors and subcontractors. (7d.) Any deviations from the estimated cost shall  
6 be reported to the Governor and the Massachusetts Legislature, along with  
7 explanations for the deviations and proposed corrective actions.  
8 **Section 8:** Section 8: Reporting and Accountability: (8a.) The Massachusetts  
9 Nuclear Reactor Project shall submit regular reports to the Governor and the  
10 Massachusetts Legislature detailing the progress of the project, including updates  
11 on construction, operation,



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**Senate Bill #31 Committee 2**

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**Sponsors:** Jennifer Slawson

An Act To: mandate Lunar New Year as an official school holiday in all Commonwealth of Massachusetts Public K-12 Schools

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

Section 1: Definitions: Subsection A: "School Holiday" shall be defined as periods during which schools are closed or no classes or other mandatory activities are held. Subsection B: "Lunar New Year" shall be defined as the beginning of the new year based on the lunar calendar or lunisolar calendar, which falls on the second new moon after the winter solstice on December 21. Subsection C: Public School shall be defined as learning institutions that are funded by local, state and/or federal governments. They offer general education opportunities to children in kindergarten through grade 12. Subsection D: "School Committee" shall be defined as a group of elected or nominated members responsible for managing and overseeing the activities of a school, and to provide it with community support.

Section 2: Purpose With Lunar New Year being celebrated by over 10 countries, and an estimated 2 billion people taking part in annual festivities worldwide, the important event continues to go ignored by the faculty of public schools. The Asian population in Massachusetts plays a crucial role in the development of cultural diversity in both public schools and communities as a whole. While Asians make up roughly 7.7% of the Massachusetts population, an estimated two-thirds of East Asians celebrate Lunar New Year each year, which accounts for over 350,000 citizens. While the current school-year requires at least 180 days, public schools have the ability to extend the terminating date of the school year to account for mandating days-off. This gives all K-12 schools an opportunity to recognize the significance of religious celebrations like Lunar New Year, and allows Asian students to properly celebrate the event without falling behind on school work.

Section 3: Provisions Subsection A: Once the bill is passed, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education shall determine the date of Lunar New Year and its position in the upcoming school year. If the holiday falls on a Saturday, the day off will not be enforced in public schools. Subsection B: Each school committee shall establish school year schedules for each of the public schools under its supervision and control, in order to implement the new holiday break and to maintain the minimum of 180 school days that are required under Student Learning Time Regulations (603 CMR 27.00).

Section 4: Fiscal Implications There are no fiscal implications.

Section 5: There will be no penalty

Section 6: Effective Date The bill will go into effect for the 2025-26 school year.



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**House Bill #32 Committee 3**

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**Sponsors:** Thomas Conti

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** An Act To: Address the opioid crisis within Massachusetts.

**Section 2:** Section 2: Definitions For the purpose of this bill, the following definitions shall apply: Subsection A: Opioids - A class of drugs that include the illegal drug heroin, synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, and pain relievers available legally by prescription, such as oxycodone (OxyContin®), hydrocodone (Vicodin®), codeine, morphine, and many others. Subsection B: Opioid Antagonist Medication - Medications that block the activation of opioid receptors in your central or peripheral nervous systems. Subsection C: Addiction: a chronic disease of the brain characterized by the persistent use of opioids despite harmful consequences caused by their use. Subsection D: Illegal Manufacturing: The production of goods or services whose sale, distribution, or possession is forbidden by law, and production activities which are usually legal but which become illegal when carried out by unauthorized producers. Subsection E: Acute Overdose: the adverse effects of a substance that result either from a single exposure or from multiple exposures in a short period (usually less than 24 hours).

**Section 3:** Section 3: Purpose The purpose of this bill is to address the ongoing opioid epidemic, doing this through a multifaceted approach including expanding the current acquisition of Naxolone, increasing limits on opioid prescriptions, and the formation of a Fentanyl Enforcement Program within Massachusetts to fight against the illegal manufacturing, distribution, and trafficking of fentanyl within the state. Both opioid addiction and overdose are major issues in Massachusetts, according to recent preliminary data from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health within the first 9 months of 2023, 1,718 deaths were recorded due to opioid overdose. This is extremely similar to the number of recorded deaths within the same time frame during the year prior, with only 8 more deaths in the previous year during this period. With opioid deaths even reaching a record high for the state during the 2022 year. The amount of deaths has also been on a steady rise over the past 9 years, with the rate of opioid-related overdose deaths in Massachusetts increasing at a rate of 3 percent per year on average from 2015 (25.6 per 100,000 people) to 2022 (33.6 per 100,000). There is also even a significant number of people who have survived opioid overdose and in conjunction with data from the Massachusetts DPH showing that for every fatal opioid overdose from 2013 to 2021, there were an average of nine, non-fatal overdoses. Taking into account the fact that survivors of opioid overdose are at great risk of dying in the year after overdose, even survivors of acute overdose must get proper treatment,



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1 as well as different preventative and informative systems being implemented to  
2 prevent overdose from occurring in the first place.

3 **Section 4:** Section 4: Provisions Subsection A: The Massachusetts Department of  
4 Health will continue and expand upon the current CNP program, working more  
5 expansively with syringe service providers (SSPs) to further Naloxone distribution  
6 across Massachusetts communities. Subsection B: Massachusetts Medical Society  
7 (MMS) will lower the maximum prescription supply for opioids from 7 days to 3  
8 days for acute pain besides specific circumstances which an individuals practitioner  
9 would identify. Subsection C: Massachusetts Department of Justice (DOJ) will  
10 house the formation of the Fentanyl Enforcement Program, mirroring California's  
11 program to "detect, deter, disrupt, and dismantle criminal fentanyl operations and  
12 prevent fentanyl from reaching California neighborhoods and communities."

13 **Section 5:** Section 5: Fiscal Implications Funding will be received from the total  
14 substance addiction prevention and treatment programs budget of \$597.2 million,  
15 as well as in moderation, from the Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund (ORRF)  
16 which has an expected "1 billion to be received through the settlements and used  
17 for substance use prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery" over the  
18 next 18 years. The total cost of this bill will be an estimated 400-500 million  
19 dollars.

20 **Section 6:** Section 6: Effective Date: Upon passage, provision A & provision B  
21 would go into effect immediately. In contrast, provision C would go into effect  
22 during the year 2030.



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**Senate Bill #33 Committee 4**

**Sponsors:** Ridge Noelsaint

***The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:***

**Section 1:** - Overtraining shall be defined as a long-term increase of training demand with adequate rest and recovery time - Overtraining syndrome shall be defined as a maladapted response to excessive exercise without adequate rest - Athlete shall be defined as a person who has undertaken training or exercise to become proficient in physical activities such as competitive sports - No specific age range, can range from little kids to adulthood - Coach shall be defined as one who instructs players in the fundamentals of a sport and directs team strategy - Athletic Organization shall be defined as a non-profit corporation, club, federation, union, association, or other group organized in the United States which sponsors or arranges any athletics competition

**Section 2:** Overtraining can result in severe physical and mental health consequences for athletes. By voting in favor of this act, you are helping to spread awareness of overtraining and creating solutions that can better the lives of athletes.

**Section 3:** Guidelines for Coaches - Coaches are to undergo mandatory training on recognizing the signs of overtraining and implementing preventive measures - Coaches must develop training programs that pay heed to the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of athletes - Said training programs shall include proper rest days to prevent overtraining Guidelines for Athletic Organizations - Mechanism must be established to ensure that coaches and athletes can report instances of suspected overtraining - Whistleblowers, including athletes, coaches, and anyone else who reports such instances of overtraining shall be protected from retaliation Education/ Public Awareness - Public Awareness campaigns will be implemented to better educate the general public about the importance of preventing overtraining and the available reporting mechanisms \*Should an athlete begin overtraining themselves by their own volition, coaches and organizations should still attempt to educate the athlete and warn them of the dangers of overtraining\*

**Section 4:** - Athletic staff found in violation of this act may be subject to fines. Additional fees collected from overtraining education programs participation fees. - There may also be collaboration with private entities, such as foundations or sports-based businesses

**Section 5:** - Coaches found in violation of the guidelines established by this act may be subject to fines, suspension, revocation of coaching credentials, or a combination of the three - Athletic Organizations found in violation of the guidelines or who fail to address reported cases of overtraining may face penalties, including fines and suspension from competitions

**Section 6:** - This bill should be made public knowledge as soon as it is passed, but will begin taking effect 120 days after passage





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**House Bill #34 Committee 1**

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**Sponsors:** Aiden Campbell

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** Definitions: Carbon Neutrality: Balance between emitting carbon and absorbing carbon. Renewable Energy: Energy that comes from unlimited naturally replenishing resources. Renewable energy integration: Process of plugging renewable sources of electricity into the electric grid. Sequestration technologies: Technologies that capture and store atmospheric carbon dioxide. Carbon tax: Tax levied on carbon emissions required to produce goods and services.

**Section 2:** This bill is so important to pass because it could rapidly devastate the environment and vulnerable populations of people that depend on it.

**Section 3:** Provisions: 1. Carbon Neutrality Goal: Set a clear and ambitious goal for Massachusetts to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, with intermediate targets to track progress and ensure accountability. 2. Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) Enhancement: Strengthen and expand the Renewable Portfolio Standard, requiring utilities to increase the percentage of renewable energy in their portfolios over time, with a focus on locally sourced clean energy. 3. Statewide Electric Vehicle Infrastructure: Invest in and promote the development of a comprehensive electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure, including charging stations, incentives for EV adoption, and support for EV manufacturing within the state. 4. Building Energy Efficiency Standards: Establish and update energy efficiency standards for new and existing buildings, promoting the use of sustainable construction practices, and incentivizing retrofitting projects to improve energy performance. 5. Green Building Codes: Adopt and enforce green building codes that encourage sustainable design and construction practices, with a focus on energy-efficient materials, renewable energy integration, and reduced carbon footprints. 6. Public Transportation Expansion: Invest in the expansion and improvement of public transportation systems to reduce reliance on individual vehicles, promoting the use of clean and efficient modes of transportation. 7. Carbon Pricing Mechanism: Explore and implement a state-level carbon pricing mechanism, such as a cap-and-trade system or carbon tax, to provide economic incentives for businesses and individuals to reduce their carbon emissions. 8. Community Solar Programs: Facilitate community solar programs to encourage the development and use of solar energy at the community level, making clean energy accessible to a broader population. 9. Carbon Capture and Sequestration Incentives: Provide incentives and support for research, development, and implementation of carbon capture and sequestration technologies, encouraging industries to reduce their carbon footprint. 10. Climate Resilience Planning: Mandate the development of climate resilience





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- 1 plans for vulnerable communities, ensuring that the state is prepared to address
- 2 the impacts of climate change and protect its residents.
- 3 **Section 4:** The bill will need to be funded. It will be funded mainly by taxes from
- 4 the state government, There will be a carbon tax increase to businesses and a small
- 5 increase for those who don't own an electric car.
- 6 **Section 5:** Penalties: Establish penalties such as fines or revoking permits for non-
- 7 compliance with emission reduction targets and other provisions of the
- 8 Massachusetts Clean Energy and Emissions Reduction Act, promoting adherence to
- 9 the state's environmental goals.
- 10 **Section 6:** This bill should go into effect in 10 months from now on January 1st
- 11 2025.



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1 **Senate Bill #35 Committee 2**

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3 **Sponsors:** Sean Donovan

4

5 *The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as*  
6 *follows:*

7 **Section 1:** An act to authorize court-ordered assisted outpatient treatment in the  
8 Commonwealth of Massachusetts

9 **Section 2:** Assisted outpatient treatment is the practice of a healthcare  
10 professional providing court-ordered treatment and care for those affected by  
11 mental illness in their home.

12 **Section 3:** Assisted outpatient treatment has the potential to help those suffering  
13 from mental illness receive important treatment in their community.

14 **Section 4:** This bill aims to enable judges to order assisted outpatient treatment to  
15 individuals evaluated by psychologists. Individuals who are admitted into the  
16 assisted outpatient program will be visited and treated by healthcare professionals  
17 in their community.

18 **Section 5:** Assisted outpatient treatment would be funded under the operating  
19 expenses of the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health.

20 **Section 6:** If a patient refuses treatment or expresses other problems the assigned  
21 healthcare professional can submit a request for re-evaluation at which a  
22 psychologist will determine the patient's eligibility for the program.

23 **Section 7:** This bill will be implemented effective immediately upon passing.



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**House Bill #36 Committee 3**

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**Sponsors:** Declan Conway

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** An Act To: Ensure safety and productivity for pupils and faculty members in all public schools or school districts within the Commonwealth, to foster reform rather than punishment through legislation, to provide rules and regulations for pupil management in a classroom environment, to promote a positive learning environment in every classroom.

**Section 2:** SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS. In this subtitle: **TEACHER-STUDENT COMPANIONSHIP-BUILDING.**—The term “teacher-student companionship-building” means that in the process of dispute resolution, faculty will invest time into building trust with the pupil being disciplined, in addition to exerting empathy and compassion in order to humanize said pupil, rather than approaching them as a problematic juvenile in need of rehabilitation. **ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMMING.**—The term “alternative programming” means that pupils attend their core curriculum, but their electives are substituted with an alternative schedule in which they’d be working on their “structured restitution project.” Pupils would still attend lunch and recess with their peers—if applicable.

**DEPARTMENT.**—The term “department” means the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, acting through the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education or his designee. **DISTRICT OR SCHOOL DISTRICT.**—The term “district or school district” means a municipal school department or regional school district, acting through its school committee or superintendent of schools, a county agricultural school, acting through its board of trustees or superintendent/director, any other public school established by statute or charter, acting through its governing board or director. **FACULTY.**—The

term “faculty” means academic staff at an institution of education within the scope of public schools. **PROGRAM.**—The term “program” means a plan of activities and procedures designed to accomplish a predetermined objective or set of objectives.

**PUPIL.**—The term “pupil” means student. **RECOGNITION OF PUPILS.**—The term “recognition of pupils” means that faculty will support and appraise pupils throughout their process of the “structured restitution project” and after. Pupils will be respected and shown compassion for putting their best foot forward in an attempt to reform their wrongdoings. **RESTITUTION.**—The term “restitution” means to recompense for one’s wrongdoings by restoring something to its original state or quality. **RESTORATIVE CONVERSATION.**—The term “restorative conversation” means a conversation between the pupil and decision-maker with the goal of building trust, building empathy, and gaining further insights on the root



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1 of the problem to allow the faculty member to address the situation properly. From  
2 this point, the decision-maker can assess the pupil's needs, whether that's (iii)  
3 alternative programming, or (III) trauma sensitive learning models. SIN TAX.—a  
4 tax on items considered undesirable or harmful, such as alcohol.

5 STRUCTURED RESTITUTION PROJECT.—The term "structured restitution  
6 project" means a program pupils embark on over the course of their "three-step  
7 initiative" plan. This project encourages pupils to acknowledge and analyze the  
8 weight of their actions, and to hopefully gain a further understanding of the  
9 repercussions that come with such actions. Pupils will work on their structured  
10 restitution projects during the allotted time permitted in an alternative  
11 programming schedule during the school day. STUDENT.—The term "student"  
12 means a person enrolled for full-time attendance in the preschool through grade  
13 twelve education programs operated by a public school, educational collaborative,  
14 or approved private school.

15 **Section 3:** SEC. 201. AMELIORATION OF THE DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE. In its  
16 current state, the disciplinary procedures used in public school services are  
17 inadequate and fail to ensure development and reform within the pupil; it  
18 advocates for punishment in place of reform, and this has long-term repercussions  
19 on the academic performance and mental well-being of the pupil. Discipline in the  
20 public school system should not ostracize pupils; rather, it should encourage pupils  
21 to be active members of their communities and collaborate with both peers and  
22 faculty members to ensure that their learning environments are up to par with the  
23 legislative norms and policies put into effect by the school committee.

24 **Section 4:** SEC. 301. REDEFINING SECTION 37H3/4. (a) IN GENERAL.—  
25 Subparagraph (b) of section 37(h) (3/4) is amended to read as follows: "(b) Any  
26 principal, headmaster, superintendent or person acting as a decision-maker at a  
27 student meeting or hearing, when deciding the consequences for the student, shall  
28 consider ways to re-engage the student in the learning process; and shall not  
29 suspend or expel a student until alternative remedies have been employed and  
30 their use and results documented, following and in direct response to a specific  
31 incident or incidents, unless specific reasons are documented as to why such  
32 alternative remedies are unsuitable or counter-productive, and in cases where the  
33 student's continued presence in school would pose a specific, documentable  
34 concern about the infliction of serious bodily injury or other serious harm upon  
35 another person while in school. Alternative remedies may include, but shall not be  
36 limited to: (i) conflict resolution; (ii) restorative justice; and (iii) collaborative  
37 problem solving." (b) IN GENERAL.—subparagraph (b) of section 37(h) (3/4) is  
38 amended by striking "The principal, headmaster, superintendent ..." and every  
39 sentence following in the subparagraph. (c) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (b) of  
40 section 37(h) (3/4) is amended by redesignating subparagraph (c) as subparagraph



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1 (d) and so on; in addition to inserting after subparagraph (b) the following new  
2 subparagraph: “(c) The principal, headmaster, superintendent or person acting as  
3 a decision-maker shall also implement school-or district-wide models to re-engage  
4 students in the learning process which shall include but not be limited to: (I)  
5 teacher-student companionship building; (II) recognition of pupils (IV) positive  
6 behavioral interventions and supports models and (V) trauma sensitive learning  
7 models; provided, however, that school-or district-wide models shall not be  
8 considered a direct response to a specific incident. (d) IN GENERAL.—

9 Subparagraph (f) of section 37(h) (3/4) is amended to read as follows: “No  
10 student shall be subject to an out-of-school suspension from a school or school  
11 district for a time period that exceeds 10 days, beginning the first day the student  
12 is removed from an assigned school building. In that 10-day timespan, the  
13 principal, headmaster, superintendent or person acting as a decision-maker must  
14 initiate the alternative remedies outlined in subparagraphs (b) and (c). (e)

15 EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to school  
16 years beginning after August 14, 2025. Subtitle A—The Three-Step Initiative

17 SEC. 311. SHORT TITLE. This subtitle may be cited as “The Three-Step Initiative”.

18 SEC. 312. RESTORATIVE CONVERSATION. (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 37(h) (3/4)  
19 is amended by inserting subparagraph (g) after subparagraph (f), and reads as  
20 follows: “If a pupil is subject to punishment on grounds outside of the ones set  
21 forth in Secs. 37H or 37H1/2, then the principal, headmaster, superintendent, or  
22 person acting as the decision-maker for the pupil must initiate the three-step  
23 initiative. If, for whatever reason, the teacher cannot partake in initiating the first  
24 step of the program with the pupil, a paraprofessional or other trained faculty  
25 member may take on the role of directing the early stages of the three-step  
26 initiation process. The framework for (i) restorative conversation is as follows:

27 (i): The trained faculty member will remove the pupil from the classroom and  
28 take them to a secluded location in the pupil shall be given time to express their  
29 perspective on the situation, and what they believe led to the necessitation for  
30 disciplinary action. (ii): The trained faculty member will then be able to

31 express their perspective and identify the events leading up to the incident, in  
32 addition to any root causes. (I): If, for whatever reason, the teacher

33 overseeing the classroom is unable to attend the restorative conversation, then this  
34 step can be overlooked temporarily. (iii): Between the trained faculty member

35 and pupil, a collaborative effort will be made to address the needs and concerns of  
36 the teacher and create an agreement for the steps moving forward; whether that’s

37 continuing down the path of the three-step initiative or possibly considering (ii)  
38 trauma sensitive learning models. During this step in the program, it’s the trained

39 faculty member’s role to draft a short-term agreement that can be used to navigate  
40 the pupil through the reformative process. If there are any psychological concerns



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1 that need to be addressed, a school psychologist or trained medical personnel will  
2 attend to that promptly. Using this outline put together during the restorative  
3 conversation, the principal, headmaster, or superintendent will work in conjunction  
4 with the teacher presiding over the classroom to evaluate the pupil and decide  
5 whether or not they may be eligible for alternative programming and eventually a  
6 structured restitution project.” (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
7 this section shall apply to school years beginning after August 14, 2025. SEC.  
8 313. ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMMING. (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 37(h) (3/4) is  
9 amended by inserting subparagraph (h) after subparagraph (g), and reads as  
10 follows: “If the pupil has been deemed eligible for alternative programming by the  
11 decision-maker presiding over the restorative conversation, a meeting will be  
12 scheduled within 2 days of the disciplinary hearing with the principal, headmaster,  
13 or superintendent. If, for whatever reason, alterations must be made to the pupil’s  
14 alternative programming schedule, then the guidance counselor will take it upon  
15 themselves to make the necessary adjustments to ensure the pupil’s success in the  
16 school environment.” (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this  
17 section shall apply to school years beginning after August 14, 2025. SEC. 314.  
18 STRUCTURED RESTITUTION PROJECT. (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 37(h) (3/4) is  
19 amended by inserting subparagraph (i) after subparagraph (h), and reads as  
20 follows: “In order for the pupil to recompense for their wrongdoings, they will be  
21 tasked with a project of equal proportions that spans the course of three weeks.  
22 Each pupil will have a uniquely tailored experience for their retributive program  
23 that’s designed by the principal, headmaster, or superintendent in conjunction with  
24 the decision-maker for that particular pupil. Each pupil will be expected to follow  
25 the following guidelines for their restitution project: (i) During week one,  
26 pupils will be tasked with selecting a medium and prompt for their project in  
27 collaboration with the trained faculty member who oversees the project in full. It’s  
28 expected that by the end of week one, pupils will have a designated goal in mind  
29 that has been approved. (ii) During week two, pupils will be expected to have laid  
30 out the framework for their project, in addition to having a rough draft that will  
31 then be presented to the trained faculty member who will give back appropriate  
32 feedback and recommendations. (iii) During week three, pupils will utilize the  
33 feedback provided to make any adjustments to their long-term retributive project.  
34 By the end of the week, it’s expected that the pupil will have a project that’s ready  
35 to present with visible effort put into it. (I) If, for whatever reason, the  
36 pupil has failed to exert effort when working on their restitution project, a meeting  
37 will be held with the principal, headmaster, or superintendent and a family member  
38 or legal guardian to discuss the disciplinary procedure for the pupil moving forward.  
39 (iv) After week three, a date will be scheduled in which the pupil will present  
40 the project that they have been tasked with in front of a selected audience at the





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1 discretion of the trained faculty member overseeing the pupil’s long-term  
2 retributive project. This may be in front of the impacted demographic, family  
3 members or legal guardians, or in front of faculty members that may have been  
4 impacted in any way, shape, or form.” (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments  
5 made by this section shall apply to school years beginning after August 14, 2025.  
6 **Section 5: SEC. 401. ALLOCATING AND GENERATING FISCAL.** (a) IN GENERAL.—  
7 Section 37(h) (3/4) is amended by inserting subparagraph (j) after subparagraph  
8 (i), and reads as follows: “For each pupil in a school or school district, an additional  
9 \$584 USD will be provided as a stimulus to the \$20,572 USD already being spent  
10 on each pupil in the Commonwealth. This money shall be used to finance guidance  
11 and adjustment counselors, paraprofessionals, medical and therapy services, and  
12 psychological services for pupils. It’s at the discretion of the school committee  
13 within a district or public school district to assess where the additional funds will go  
14 in order to ensure the best possible environment for pupils and faculty.” (b)  
15 EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to school  
16 years beginning after August 14, 2025. SEC. 402. LEVYING AMELIORATED SIN  
17 TAXES IN THE COMMONWEALTH. (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 138 (21) in the Mass  
18 General laws is amended: (1) by striking “three dollars and thirty cents” and  
19 inserting “three dollars and eighty cents” in subsection (a). (2) by striking “three  
20 cents” and inserting “four cents” in subsection (b). (3) by striking “fifty-five cents”  
21 and inserting “sixty-three cents” in subsection (c). (4) by striking “seventy cents”  
22 and inserting “eighty-one cents” in subsection (d). (5) by striking “one dollar and  
23 ten cents” and inserting “one dollar and twenty-three cents” in subsection (e). (6)  
24 by striking “four dollars and five cents” and inserting “four dollars and sixty-six  
25 cents” in subsection (f). (7) by striking “four dollars and five cents” and inserting  
26 “four dollars and sixty-six cents” in subsection (g). By levying a 15% increase on  
27 sin taxes such as alcohol beverages, the Commonwealth will be able to accumulate  
28 a projected amount of \$14,646,451 USD on an annual basis. (b) IN GENERAL.—  
29 Section 64(h) (2) is amended by striking “6.25 per cent” and inserting “7.25 per  
30 cent” in paragraph (1). Levying a 15% increase on sin taxes such as cigarettes is  
31 projected to result in an additional \$119,085,000 annually that the Commonwealth  
32 can then use to financially support schools. (c) IN GENERAL.—The federal  
33 government will pay an additional 2% in grant programs to public schools and  
34 school services in addition to the 7.5% that they’re already paying. In total this is  
35 projected to amount to \$339,670,901 USD that schools in the Commonwealth can  
36 use. (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to  
37 school years beginning after August 14, 2025.





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**Senate Bill #37 Committee 4**

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**Sponsors:** Gracie Barriteau, Marisa DaSilva, Gabrielle Florestal, Anupriya Mazagonwalla

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** Elementary schools refer to children in kindergarten to fifth grade and high school refers to students in grades 9 through 12. Schools with students grades 6-12 would be considered high schools in this context and their start times would be like regular high schools.

**Section 2:** This bill is important because teenagers need much more sleep than younger kids. More sleep leads to better productivity, high test scores, and better behaved students.

**Section 3:** It is scientifically proven that teenagers, kids ranging in age from 13-18, have a stronger work ethic when they are well-rested. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) teenagers should sleep 8-10 per every 24 hours. The national average is 7 hours of sleep a night. Most kids should go to bed around 10pm and wake at 8. Due to growth hormones it is incredibly difficult to feel sleepy before a certain time, specifically for teenagers. Their brains are programmed to go to sleep later and wake up later. Early school start times interfere with this biologically built in schedule.

**Section 4:** This act should not cost anything for the state as the transportation is already in place.

**Section 5:** This law should take effect at the beginning of the school year, 2026.



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**House Bill #38 Committee 1**

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**Sponsors:** Grayson Pelletier

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** Section 1 Gerrymandering: In representative democracies, gerrymandering is when politicians manipulate the boundaries of voting areas to give unfair advantages to a specific party, group, or social class in that area.

Electoral District Boundaries: Electoral boundary delimitation is the process of defining the borders of voting areas, like states or counties, for elections.

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission: An Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission is a citizen body, other than the usual state legislative bodies, established to draw electoral district boundaries.

**Section 2:** Section 2 Gerrymandering is a sickness that has been plaguing this great nation since its creation. This strategy is not an old colonial American problem, it's a problem that politicians on both sides don't mind using to give themselves an upper hand in their state.

**Section 3:** Section 3 The Commonwealth of Massachusetts redistricting committee will be disbanded A permanent commission in the legislative branch, referred to as the "Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission," is established by this state bill. The commission will be composed of 13 commissioners and is tasked with creating redistricting plans for state senate districts, state house of representative districts, and congressional districts. The secretary of state office will pick 25 qualifying applicants that affiliate with one of the two major parties and 5 that qualifying applicants that affiliate with not affiliated or affiliate with the Unified Libertarians of Massachusetts (ULM) The Secretary of State will start the random selection process to fill the selection pools shall use accepted statistical weighting methods to ensure that the pools, as closely as possible, mirror the geographic and demographic makeup of the state to fill the 13 commissioner seats as well as 13 replacements Each commissioner shall: Be a registered voter a citizen of the Massachusetts for 12 years Any of the following do not qualify to become a commissioner: - An elected official to partisan federal, state, or local office - An officer or member of the governing body - A paid consultant or employee of a federal, state, or local elected official or political candidate, of a federal, state, or local political candidate's campaign - Any person who is registered as a lobbyist agent - Not be a parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, or spouse of an elected official - An elected official that was in office in the past 6 years - The commissioner's have a 15 day session of payed time to work on map as well as businesses and government jobs will have to excuse them from working - Commissioner's are barred from running for public office for 7 years



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- 1 after drawing the Electoral District Boundaries - The secretary of state office
- 2 will then out of the 30 picked candidates find the 13 new commissioner for that
- 3 session with 6 of the first 2 major parties each with the 13th seat will be chesent
- 4 for the not affiliated or affiliate with the Unified Libertarians of Massachusetts (ULM)
- 5 candidate.
- 6 **Section 4:** Section 4 We will allot \$15,000 from the Commonwealth of
- 7 Massachusetts Secretary of State to pay the commissioner for a Semi-Monthly
- 8 session.
- 9 **Section 5:** Section 5 If a commissioner is found to have drawn the electoral
- 10 district boundaries unfairly (with Racial bias, social class bias, economic status
- 11 bias, or party affiliation bias) if found by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- 12 Supreme Court will result in a \$120,000 fine and 17 - 23 years in state prison if
- 13 evicted on Gerrymandering. As well as a new emergency citizens redistricting
- 14 commission being formed by the secretary of state office and redraw the maps.
- 15 **Section 6:** Section 6 This bill will go into effect of January 2026
- 16



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**Senate Bill #39 Committee 2**

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**Sponsors:** Miguel Alamo-Gotera

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** Section 1: Definitions Subsection A: Third spaces shall be defined as a space that is meant to be separate from the two main spaces of your life, home and work or school (depending on your age). This space is meant to be a place of leisure, joy, and geniality. An example of third places would be coffee shops, parks, public gardens, restaurants. Essentially any place that you can go to for free and enjoy. (With the exception of establishments where you can purchase goods.) Subsection B: Small business shall be defined as a business that doesn't gain more than a million dollars a year in revenue and employs around 9-50 people. The money and people quoted can change from business to business as certain areas have different consumers.

**Section 2:** Section 2: Purpose The bill will increase the amount of third spaces in Massachusetts, allowing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to experience parks, plazas, and basic enjoyment of public areas again. This bill will also help the youth of Massachusetts, providing them areas to go to, encouraging them to leave behind the digital world in the favor of reality, as well as giving them places to go to that aren't based off money, such as malls.

**Section 3:** Section 3: Provision Subsection A: Currently, there are 216 community parks and recreation centers in Massachusetts. There are also 102 parks and playgrounds in Massachusetts. State-sponsored inspectors will go and inspect these areas, deciding which ones need renovations, repairs, or rebuilding. A government employed team will work on these projects, with each person on the team doing extensive research to know how to make it modern. The parks will be updated, aimed at the next generation. The parks and centers will be given materials to become more modern, more accessible to the youth. Subsection B: Then, small businesses will be investigated, and certain businesses will be chosen to receive funding for improvements. Small businesses are chosen for this as they are more of a third place for older generations. The improvements for these businesses will be done by the owner or manager of the business, if they deign to accept the help. Subsection C: Finally, community driven events and areas (Town meeting space, town-wide events, etc) will be pushed, contributing to the growth of the places. Community events such as farmers markets will be funded, with more vendors and publicity being posted, whether that be through social media or funding. This action would be pushed through the community, with the general public choosing what will be improved and what can remain the same. Later, after the government had funded and helped, the community will be responsible for



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1 managing and maintaining the areas and events. Subsection D: This process will  
2 be split into three parts, the areas, businesses, then the community events and  
3 areas. The first part to occur will be the areas, the parks and recreation centers.  
4 The inspectors will begin February 2025. They will approximately be finished by  
5 June 2025, with it taking longer or less time depending on how many inspectors are  
6 sent. They will begin renovations, redesigns, and updates as soon as possible, with  
7 the closest date being anywhere from September 2025 to June 2026, as it takes  
8 anywhere from three months to a year to build a park. The businesses will be  
9 reviewed before construction begins, right as the inspectors begin, June/July 2025.  
10 They will receive their help, then they will be responsible for their improvement,  
11 with each business taking its own time, whether it be a month or two years. The  
12 community areas would begin February 2025, with January being used to plan out  
13 where funds will go and how they will be used. As with the businesses, after they  
14 are funded and improved, they will be responsible for themselves. They also share  
15 the same improvement timeline, taking any amount of time that is needed.

16 **Section 4:** Section 4: Fiscal Implications: Funding for this bill shall come from the  
17 Department of Parks and Recreation and the Massachusetts Office of Business  
18 Development.

19 **Section 5:** Section 5: Penalty: If the park is deemed too unsafe to be used by the  
20 general public, it will be remade and improved. If an improper use of the given  
21 money occurs, a \$500 fine will be placed on the company or owner. If the  
22 businesses that are given funding are seen to be using it improperly, such as using  
23 it to better their own personal lives rather than the public's, the money will be  
24 taken away and all support will be taken back.

25 **Section 6:** Section 6: Effective Date The bill will go into effect at the start of 2025.

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**House Bill #40 Committee 3**

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**Sponsors:** Jeremy An

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** Subsection A: Food waste- food that is fit for consumption but consciously discarded at the retail or consumption phases Subsection B: Business- an organization or enterprising entity that engages in professional, commercial or industrial activities. Subsection C: Homeless shelters- a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter or other facility that is designed to provide temporary living accommodations to individuals who lack a fixed regular and adequate residence. Subsection D: Nutrition- the sum of the processes by which an animal or plant takes in and utilizes food substances

**Section 2:** The solution will resolve the issue of food waste in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. About 35% of food produced in the United States is wasted, either unsold or uneaten by consumers. According to ReFed, if the nation recovered about 50% of the food waste production, about 46 billion pounds, the nation could feed every person in starvation three meals a day. Consumers, businesses, and farms spend \$218 billion, or 1.3% of their gross domestic product, growing, processing, and disposing of food never consumed. On average, businesses are taking a \$74 billion loss on food annually. The average American household throws about \$1,600 of food every year. 27 million tons of food is wasted at home every year, accounting for 43% of the total food wasted. Food waste produces excess methane, leading to global warming and climate change from the absorption of infrared radiation and heating up the earth's atmosphere. 70% of water is used in agriculture across the globe. Food waste represents a significant waste of freshwater and groundwater resources. The amount of water used to grow the wasted food is three times the volume of Lake Geneva, Switzerland, with a total volume of 21 cubic miles. In comparison, one kilogram of beef wasted is equivalent to 25,000 liters of water wasted in the production of the meat. Additionally, 1,000 liters of water is wasted when someone pours one liter of milk down the drain. Around 3.4 million acres of land, about one-third of the world's total agricultural land, is used to grow that is wasted.

**Section 3:** Tax write-offs/penalties on the amount of food not wasted by businesses or donated to homeless shelters Rates for tax write-offs/penalties for businesses Penalties per kg on food wasted Write-offs/benefits per kg on foods conserved Rates on the size of the business (x% on smaller or larger businesses) Tools to measure food waste accumulated in businesses FDA regulations/standards on foods charitable to donation centers Food inspections every x durations (weeks,



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- 1 months) Inspections before donating charitable foods to donation centers Regulate
- 2 compost bins in businesses and public property
- 3 **Section 4:** Taxes will increase in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to
- 4 compensate write-offs and benefits in businesses and schools The default rate
- 5 provided by the state (x%) Have local organizations run by the state running
- 6 campaigns to reduce food waste Incentivize compost programs to advocate for
- 7 composting
- 8 **Section 5:** Write-offs/benefits on any foods per kg donated to donation centers
- 9 Rates on the size of the business Larger benefits (x%) on larger businesses
- 10 **Section 6:** This act should take effect on the day of the passing of the bill.
- 11





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**Senate Bill #41 Committee 4**

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**Sponsors:** Logan Dinh

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** Definitions: Failing a test is 70% Homework- work design for students in order to review of the day's topic

**Section 2:** Purpose: Some surveys suggest that the average amount of time that most high school students spend on homework is 4–5 hours/week. That's approximately 1 hour/day or 180 hours/year. So that puts the average time spent on class and homework combined at 1,260 hours/school year. The study shows that there is growing awareness many subgroups of youth experience high levels of chronic stress, to the extent it impedes their abilities to succeed academically. More than 70% of students agree that the reason to their stress in school is classwork/homework. While homework might be an easy challenge for some students, who could finish in under 10 minutes, other who are troubled by homework can take more time doing it, effectively taking off the time they could be studying for a test. This bill will remove homework on class such as math, science, language, and electives. The exception to this bill will be classes where students are required to read such as English and/or other electives.

**Section 3:** Proposal for Action: If public schools adapt to this new learning environment, Then there will be an increase in teacher's salaries and special bonuses (100,000-150,000) and the addition of many gym equipment.

**Section 4:** Effective date- Immediately after this bill pass

**Section 5:** Sources: <https://www.healthline.com/health-news/children-more-homework-means-more-stress-031114#:~:text=When%20it%20came%20to%20stress,homework%20as%20a%20primary%20stressor.> <https://www.nyu.edu/about/news-publications/news/2015/august/nyu-study-examines-top-high-school-students-stress-and-coping-mechanisms.html>  
<https://www.collegiateparent.com/academics/student-study-time-matters/#:~:text=Some%20surveys%20suggest%20that%20the,at%201%2C260%20hours%2Fschool%20year.>



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**House Bill #42 Committee 1**

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**Sponsors:** William Lowney

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** An act to mandate drug and alcohol education in the elementary school frameworks of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

**Section 2:** Drug and alcohol education can be defined as talking about and teaching students at the elementary school level about the effects and downsides of using alcohol and drugs. Chapter 70 is the major program of state aid for elementary and secondary schools.

**Section 3:** This is important because it will help prevent our younger generation from getting caught up in substance abuse. Between the ages 12 and 20, 12.13 million adolescents have abused alcohol and 62% of teenagers have used drugs. If students can learn at a younger age about the consequences then it will hopefully reduce the number of adolescents who have a negative impact on them.

**Section 4:** When this law is passed each elementary school will be enforced to teach students in grades 3 and up about the effect and consequences of drug use. This will expose students to the world, and how drugs and alcohol can have a major impact on their whole life. The teachings will include talk of how it affects the brain, how it can affect families, and how it can affect the future. With these teachings combined it will create a safe environment for students to ask questions and learn about how drugs and alcohol can affect others around them.

**Section 5:** The funding for this bill shall be left for the school districts.

**Section 6:** If this law is not obeyed by a school district it will be reflected in their Chapter 70 funding allocation.

**Section 7:** This bill will go into effect in the fall of 2024.



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**House Bill #43 Committee 2**

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**Sponsors:** Delaney Mayo

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** An Act To: Mandate World Language Education In Grades K-12 In Public Schools Throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

**Section 2:** "World Language Education" shall be defined as courses in one language that a student will take throughout all of their public education journey. "Critical Period" shall be defined as the stage of cognitive development in which an individual is most inclined to learn and comprehend language.

**Section 3:** Communication and collaboration are two of the most, if not the most vital skills for a person to have. These skills are important to be able to practice in individual circumstances, as well as broader and more professional circumstances.

**Section 4:** Intercultural communication is one of the most most improvement-desiring aspects of life. Currently, there is no mandate on World Language curriculum in Massachusetts, but rather "MassCore" provides a framework for curriculum which is then left to be decided by individual school districts. By definition "MassCore is a state-recommended program of study intended to align high school coursework with college and workforce expectations." MassCore recommends only 2 full academic years of World Language Study. This is entirely inefficient as students cannot learn a new language in this short period of time while still managing other coursework. More time is required for a proper and thorough education of World Languages. Additionally, it has been proven that people are more likely to find languages easier to learn after knowing more than one. The Critical Period for language development lasts from the age of two through puberty. Meaning between the ages of two years old to the early teen years are when language can be learned best. After the critical period, sentence formulation and comprehension cannot be fully learned. It is completely unreasonable for schools to start teaching World Language in middle and high school because it is proven to be ineffective.

**Section 5:** The funding for this legislation shall be left to the individual school districts.

**Section 6:** Students will not be able to be accepted into Massachusetts Public Universities and will not be able to graduate from a Massachusetts Public School District without Thirteen years worth of credit for World Language Education.

**Section 7:** This bill will go into effect in the 2024-2025 school year.



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**Senate Bill #44 Committee 3**

**Sponsors:** Charlie Hamblet

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** Urinal: A vessel for receiving urine/liquid human waste, typically used while standing upright Non-Water Urinal: A urinal that does not flush itself with water to dispose of waste Water-Based Urinal: A urinal that uses water to flush itself to dispose of waste Public Building: Any building that is run by the state, federal, or local government, or receives funding from such

**Section 2:** The average urinal uses one gallon per flush to dispose of waste. These urinals are used dozens of times per day, meaning thousands of gallons of water are used, per year, just for one urinal. Most bathrooms contain multiple urinals, and many buildings contain multiple bathrooms, meaning that most buildings use hundreds of thousands of gallons of water per year, just to flush liquid waste. In the state, there are thousands of these such buildings, and thus this waste of water is enormously vast. Non-water urinals use none of this water. By implementing non-water urinals, such as that of Waterless, in government buildings, this waste of water would not happen.

**Section 3:** This bill would mandate that any and all urinals in public buildings that require replacing, which happens roughly every three years, be replaced with some form of non-water urinal. Those buildings that seek to replace their utilities sooner would receive a subsidy from the state to cover 30% of the cost of the replacement.

**Section 4:** Non-water urinals require much less maintenance than those that use water, thus they are cheaper to have. Furthermore, water bills are greatly reduced by not having to use water in these urinals, and thus buildings that implement them cut costs. Only one dollar paid per 1000 uses of the waterless urinal. The funding for replacing the urinals would come from the state's Department of Environmental Protection's budget, which would be borrowed from future years. This would be a "loan" in that the money saved by not using water-based urinals would repay the money required to replace them.

**Section 5:** Any buildings not in compliance with this mandate would have to pay a sum of \$250 per urinal not in compliance. Furthermore, any and all water-based urinals in public buildings must be replaced by January 1st, 2030, or that building will be required to pay a sum of \$500 per urinal not in compliance.

**Section 6:** This bill would go into effect two months after passing, on June 1st, 2024.



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**House Bill #45 Committee 4**

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**Sponsors:** Reda Benhafoun

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** Section 1: Definitions Self-Defense Education: Instruction in techniques and strategies to protect oneself from physical harm, which may include but is not limited to physical defense maneuvers, and situational awareness training.

**Section 2:** Section 2: Purpose Statement In Massachusetts, 4,418 adolescents and adults are sexually assaulted each year. In other words one person is sexually assaulted every two hours in Massachusetts. A study by Jocelyn A. Hollander (2014) demonstrated that women who participated in self-defense training were significantly less likely to experience sexual assault, showing the direct impact of such education on reducing victimization. Furthermore, research published on PubMed further supports the effectiveness of self-defense training in empowering individuals and preventing sexual violence, emphasizing the critical role of these programs in enhancing safety and confidence among students. Additionally, data from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics reveals the prevalence of personal and property crimes, further emphasizing the importance of self-defense awareness and basic skills. By equipping students with the knowledge and techniques to protect themselves, we empower them to mitigate potential risks and enhance their personal safety. Moreover, bullying remains a pervasive issue in schools, with a significant percentage of students encountering bullying both in-person and online. According to statistics provided by the PACER Center, a non-profit organization dedicated to keeping kids safe online and in school, addressing bullying requires more than just physical defense maneuvers. It necessitates comprehensive self-defense education that includes strategies for navigating social situations and fostering assertiveness and resilience among students. By integrating self-defense training into our curriculum, we equip students with the tools to stand up to bullying behavior and create a safer and more inclusive school environment. Furthermore, integrating self-defense training into the school curriculum aligns with broader educational objectives of fostering a supportive and secure learning environment. By providing students with the knowledge and skills to protect themselves, we not only empower them to navigate potentially dangerous situations but also instill a sense of agency and resilience.

**Section 3:** Section 3: Implementation Curriculum Development: The Department of Education, in collaboration with self-defense experts, will develop a standardized self-defense a state-wide curriculum suitable for high school students to be implemented in the state and physical education framework. Instructor



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- 1 Qualifications: All instructors must undergo training. Assessment and
- 2 Certification: Students must demonstrate proficiency in self-defense techniques to
- 3 fulfill the graduation requirement, assessed through practical examinations.
- 4 **Section 4:** Section 4: Funding This will require minimal funding to create the
- 5 curriculum as well as instructor training which will be funded by state grants, and
- 6 the Department of Education.
- 7 **Section 5:** Section 5: Non-Compliance Schools failing to implement the self-
- 8 defense curriculum may face penalties, including funding reductions and formal
- 9 reviews of their accreditation status.
- 10 **Section 6:** Section 6: Effective Date The curriculum must be created by August
- 11 2026 and the curriculum must be implemented in schools starting the 2027 school
- 12 year, giving ample time for all instructors to undergo training.
- 13



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**Senate Bill #46 Committee 1**

**Sponsors:** Joshlyn Jarrett

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** Section I: Definitions “Public high school” refers to any public educational institution that provides educational services in the commonwealth of Massachusetts. “Student” refers to anyone enrolled in a public high school at or above the age of 16yrs and below 18yrs within the commonwealth. “Driving Education” refers to an educational program that offers driving instruction and road safety skills. “Training” refers to behind-the-wheel instruction

**Section 2:** Section II: Importance This act recognizes the need for accessible driver’s education for public high school students and provides guidelines for implementation, it also aims to promote safe driving practices, reduce accidents involving young drivers, and enhance overall road safety. Most importantly, it aims to provide equitable access to driver’s education and training for public high school students in Massachusetts by removing the financial barriers that students may face.

**Section 3:** Section III: Implementation Instruction shall be provided by qualified driving instructors licensed by the Driver Licensing Department of the RMV in Massachusetts. The state will provide guidance and technical assistance to schools if necessary. The programs shall include both classroom instruction and practical driving experience when appropriate for each enrolled student. Eligibility for participation shall be limited to public high school students who meet the following criteria: Must hold a valid learner’s permit and a Massachusetts state ID card. Must maintain satisfactory academic standing as determined by their respective schools. Exceptions are to be made for students with disabilities and/or IEPs as they will have access to individualized instruction and assistive technology. Priority shall be given to students from low-income families and those who face financial hardship. This will be decided on by individual school officials and financial information provided by parents or guardians. The Department of Education shall establish free programs in collaboration with accredited driving schools in the state of Massachusetts through the rearrangement of state budgets and according to school size. The curriculum of the free programs shall cover essential topics related to driving skills, traffic laws, road safety, etc. It shall also include behind-the-wheel training After each completion of available programs, the Department of Education and the RMV shall conduct regular evaluations to view results and assess their efficacy. A report detailing the outcomes of those evaluations shall be submitted annually to the Massachusetts legislature for appropriate review and consideration to ensure sustainability.





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1 **Section 4:** Section IV: Funding The necessary funds for the implementation of  
2 this act shall be allocated from Massachusetts's budget designated for education.  
3 Additional funding may be sourced from the following: State Budget Allocations  
4 which can be the primary source of funding. Federal Grants from the Department  
5 of Education or Department of Transportation may be utilized. Corporate  
6 Sponsorships from corporations and businesses within the commonwealth may  
7 financially contribute to the costs of material and equipment. Community  
8 Donations may be derived from school-led fundraising events and community  
9 organizations.

10 **Section 5:** Section V: Penalties Financial repercussions such as fines or fees shall  
11 occur when driving schools are found to be in violation of program requirements.  
12 The amount can be determined based on the severity of the violation and its impact  
13 on program objectives. Loss of accreditation status shall occur when a driving  
14 school consistently fails to meet the requirements of the school they are partnered  
15 with. In addition to financial penalties, driving schools that are found to be in  
16 violation shall be subject to civil penalties such as injunctions.

17 **Section 6:** Section VI: Enactment This act shall be enacted into law upon  
18 approval by the Massachusetts legislature, and shall take effect immediately upon  
19 its passage. This act shall be implemented in Massachusetts no later than August  
20 1, 2026. All schools will have one year from the effective date of this bill to fully  
21 implement the requirements of this bill and acquire all materials and equipment  
22 necessary. The state will provide guidance and technical assistance to schools to  
23 help them implement the requirements of this bill.  
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**House Bill #47 Committee 4**

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**Sponsors:** Zain Khan, Ben Chen

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 69 section 1 G, shall be replaced with, "The board shall establish the minimum length for a school day and the minimum number of days in the school year, with a minimum summer vacation of 104 days." The Board will be encouraged to redefine hourly requirements between grades for structured learning time in accordance with their decision for length of the annual school year. Mandate schools to abide by the commencement and end dates for summer vacation instead of allowing local schools to move dates for start and end days of the annual school year.

**Section 2:** Teacher salaries are notoriously low, with the average being \$52,116 a year in Massachusetts. The livable wage in Massachusetts, in comparison, is \$59,560. Many teachers are thus forced to get second jobs over breaks and vacations. By implementing these changes, teachers will have a much longer period of time over the summer to both search for and work in summer jobs. Not only will this allow teachers to make a livable wage, it will also allow the government to allocate money towards other fields by decreasing overall school hours.

**Section 3:** Penalties shall be made and enforced by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

**Section 4:** The requirements set forth in M. G. L. c.69 s.1G, as amended, shall be effective July 1, 2026, and shall govern the operation of all public schools within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts beginning with the 2025 – 2026 school year, with the exception of the structured learning time requirements, which shall be effective July 1, 2027.



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**Senate Bill #48 Committee 2**

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**Sponsors:** James Desmond

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** Definitions: A minor is defined by 42 U.S. Code § 619 is "...[an individual] who has not yet attained 18 years of age" 'Personal Message' is any form of communication available through means of a media platform: Social Media, WhatsApp, Discord, GroupMe etc. 'Follow' is defined as any form of a Media Platform peer-to-peer connection, e.g. Following, Friend [Request], etc.

**Section 2:** Purpose: TO protect children and teens from predatory interaction with other individuals. Although discouraged, there are still plenty of young children who own social media accounts that hold the same freedom as those of developed adults. Without any restrictions, they are exposed to scams, predatory conduct, and cyber-bullying. Quoting a New Mexico state prosecutor, "... Meta let[s] dozens of adults find, contact and encourage children to provide sexually explicit and pornographic images". There are many protections for children from the safest in our community, such as teachers and coaches, but online the guise of anonymity means any adult, with no qualifications or checks performed on teachers, can contact young children under no supervision.

**Section 3:** Provisions: Mandated Actions By Companies: Require all Media platforms to restrict Personal Message capability on all Massachusetts minors' Media Accounts to trusted individuals whom they have followed for more than a month. Require all accounts registered to individuals who have not yet attained the age of 16 to add a parental guardian as supervisor. The ability of the supervisor must include, but are not limited to: Personal Message supervision, Follow Request approval and Media Availability (Ex. Choice to filter explicit content) Parental supervision may take form in the ownership of another account on the platform (i.e. Connecting the parent's account to the child's) or a connection to a verified email if an account is not owned by the parent. Require all follow requests of minors who have not yet attained the age of 16 to be approved by the aforementioned parental supervisor. IF a child were to falsify their age, one of two actions may be taken by the corporation: Removal from the platform, or implementation of the above provisions. Additionally, as a measure of accountability, deliberate falsification of age by a minor exempts the corporation from the provisions listed in Section 5.

**Section 4:** Fiscal Implications: This bill proposes a minor 0.5% tax on the revenue of all technology companies which operate in the Commonwealth, with the tax revenue pooled into a fund which can be delegated to families to fund civil suits against companies accused of violating this bill's provisions if financial need is



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1 demonstrated. Beyond the pool of funds to fuel legal efforts, there are no major  
2 fiscal implications.

3 **Section 5:** Penalty: Failure to abide by these provisions will result in the exemption  
4 of availability of the Media Platform to citizens of the Commonwealth. In the same  
5 way that SportsBetting applications were unavailable to citizens, these applications  
6 will be barred from usage in the Commonwealth.

7 **Section 6:** Penalty: Effective date: January 1, 2025 However, companies and  
8 consumers who operate in the Commonwealth will be notified upon passage of the  
9 bill in order to adequately develop and implement systems which satisfy the  
10 provisions of this bill.

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**House Bill #49 Committee 3**

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**Sponsors:** Makeila Scott

Bill Title: Establish a Maternal Health Equity Commission

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

Section 1: Definitions

Subsection A: Maternal Health refers to access to prenatal, antenatal, and postnatal care, mental health services, and other support services necessary for ensuring the health and well-being of expectant individuals.

Subsection B: Maternal Mortality refers to the death of an expectant individual while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy, but not from accidental or incidental causes.

Subsection C: A commission is a formal body established by the state government with a specific mandate to address a particular issue or set of issues. The commission operates independently and is composed of appointed members who possess relevant expertise and represent various stakeholder groups.

Section 2: Purpose

According to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, In Massachusetts alone, severe maternal morbidity nearly doubled from 52.3 per 10,000 deliveries in 2011 to 100.4 in 2020.

Furthermore, Black women have the highest maternal mortality rate in the United States at around 69.9 per 100,000 live births for 2021, almost three times the rate compared to white women. The Maternal Health Equity Commission is crucial for addressing the alarming disparities in maternal mortality rates among women and expectant individuals, especially black women in the Commonwealth. High mortality rates reflect systemic barriers to quality healthcare and racial bias within the healthcare system. This bill aims to ensure equitable access to maternal care and promote health equity with flexibility and room to grow over time to adapt to our commonwealth needs.

Section 3: Provisions

Subsection a: The commission shall be responsible for



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1 Investigating the root causes of maternal mortality disparities among women and  
2 expectant individuals in Massachusetts through data collection, analysis, and  
3 research and to develop evidence-based strategies and recommendations to  
4 address these disparities.  
5 Advocating for broader policy changes to address systemic inequities in maternal  
6 health. (lobbying for legislative reforms, promoting healthcare policies prioritizing  
7 maternal health equity, and collaborating with stakeholders with relevant policy  
8 agendas.)  
9 Conducting a comprehensive review of the effectiveness of the measures outlined in  
10 this Act every three years, focusing on progress in reducing maternal  
11 mortality/morbidity rates.  
12 Subsection b: Composed of healthcare professionals, community advocates,  
13 policymakers, and representatives from relevant state agencies. Commission seats  
14 will be selected using a combination of representation and expertise-based criteria  
15 appointed by the Governor.  
16 Representation: Specific seats on the commission will be directed to different  
17 stakeholder groups, including healthcare professionals, community advocates,  
18 policymakers, and representatives from relevant state agencies. Equal proportions  
19 from each category to ensure balanced representation.  
20 Expertise and Experience: Individuals appointed to the commission possess  
21 relevant knowledge and experience in maternal health, healthcare policy, advocacy,  
22 and related fields. This ensures informed decision-making and effective  
23 implementation of strategies. Upon passage, an in-depth recruitment screening will  
24 be implemented.

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26 Section 4: Fiscal Implications

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28 This initiative will be supported through necessary allocations from the state  
29 budget, grants, and federal funding, including resources outlined in the state  
30 allocation of the Biden-Harris Administration's Blueprint for Addressing the Maternal  
31 Health Crisis. Additionally, partnerships with private sector entities, such as  
32 healthcare organizations and corporations, will be formed to establish public-private  
33 collaborations. Lastly, funding will be secured through the recent Maternal Health  
34 Equity Grant of over \$1.5 million, as appropriated by the Attorney General.

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36 Section 5: Effective Date

37 Implementing the provisions outlined in this act shall take effect immediately upon  
38 passage, with a completion date of the year 2026, allowing sufficient time for  
39 planning and operationalization to ensure effective implementation.

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**Senate Bill #50 Committee 4**

**Sponsors:** Salma Laqmar

***The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:***

**Section 1:** Title: Mandate Installation of Metal Detectors in Massachusetts Public High Schools

**Section 2:** Definitions: Subsection A.) A metal detector is a device designed to detect metal objects on a person's body. Subsection B.) Weapons shall be defined as any firearms or large knives that would set off the calibrated metal detector.

**Section 3:** Purpose: According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, In 2020, firearms resulted in 10,197 deaths among youth aged 0–24 years in the United States. Massachusetts must continue to lead the fight to combat this issue. In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, applicants may register for gun possession at 14 and receive their Firearms Identification (FID) Card at 15. Given that adolescents may legally possess firearms, it is imperative that schools have proper safety measures for their students using Metal detectors to ensure the safety of staff and students. This bill enhances the safety and security measures in Massachusetts public high schools by mandating the installation of metal detectors at every entrance. This measure minimizes the risk of potential threats, not only guns but any weapons entering school premises, therefore ensuring the safety of all students, staff, and visitors.

**Section 4:** Provisions: Subsection A.) Every public high school in Massachusetts shall install and maintain at least one metal detector at every entrance used by students, staff, and visitors. Subsection B.) Schools shall establish protocols for the operation and maintenance of metal detectors as well as provide training to relevant personnel on proper usage and response procedures in case of detection of prohibited items. Subsection C.) Metal detectors shall be positioned to facilitate efficient and effective screening. Ensure accessibility for individuals with disabilities while maintaining security measures.

**Section 5:** Fiscal Implications: The state government will allocate a portion of its budget for school safety measures, covering expenses such as purchasing, installing, and maintaining the detectors. Reallocating existing resources within the budget can further supplement this initiative, ensuring that critical funds are directed toward enhancing school security. This mix of state budget allocation and resource reallocation enables the implementation of the bill without placing excessive strain on taxpayers or compromising other essential state services. A need-based application will be created that each school may apply for in correspondence to their funding.

**Section 6:** Penalty: Any public high schools found to be in violation of the provisions outlined in this act will face a deduction in federal funding.

**Section 7:** Effective date: This bill shall go into effect immediately and be completed by 2026 to allow time for proper enforcement of revamped safety protocols and for schools to accommodate this shift.





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**House Bill #51 Committee 1**

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**Sponsors:** Julius Scott

***The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:***

**Section 1:** Purpose: In 2020, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reported that 10% of carbon emissions from transportation come from airplanes. The Massachusetts Aviation Sustainability Program (MASP) aims to address these environmental impacts of aviation activities in the commonwealth by implementing measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance energy efficiency, and promote sustainable practices throughout the aviation sector in the commonwealth. According to the International Air Transportation Association (IATA), jet fuel prices have nearly doubled. Creating more efficient fuels will lower the cost of travel for consumers and airlines. AviationBenefits.org reports that there are already new and more sustainable technologies that show a 16% increase in fuel efficiency, and this bill aims to provide more research into these technologies to make them even more efficient and mandate the use of them in all airports of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

**Section 2:** Provisions: Subsection A: The MASP will be a program headed by the Aeronautics division of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. The primary focus will be to assess the current condition of Massachusetts public-use airports and aviation and allocate grants to support research and development projects focused on sustainable aviation technologies, including alternative fuels and emissions reduction strategies. Subsection B: Implement financial incentives and tax credits determined by the EPA to encourage aviation stakeholders, including airlines, airports, and aircraft manufacturers, to adopt environmentally friendly practices and invest in sustainable technologies determined by the EPA. Subsection C: Conduct public awareness campaigns and educational programs to inform residents, businesses, and industry stakeholders about the importance of sustainable aviation and ways to reduce their carbon footprint. Subsection D: Support and advocate for regulations, guidelines, and standards to promote environmental sustainability in aviation operations, including emissions monitoring, reporting requirements, and emissions trading schemes.

**Section 3:** Fiscal implications: The Massachusetts Aviation Sustainability Program (MASP) will be funded through a combination of state appropriations, private partnerships, and grants from federal agencies. This includes, but is not limited to, the Biden-Harris infrastructure plan and the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration's 'Fueling Aviation's Sustainable Transition (FAST) program'. Further funds will come from The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and the MassDOT Aeronautics Division.

**Section 4:** Effective Immediately upon passage with an expected completion date of 2026



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**Senate Bill #52 Committee 2**

**Sponsors:** Therese McCormack

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** Every high school building in Massachusetts shall be equipped with magnetometers so that every student is free from fear of knives, guns, and other deadly items entering their school.

**Section 2:** Every person who attends a sporting event, travels on an aircraft, or even enters the Massachusetts State House to advocate for a bill will pass through a magnetometer. The magnetometers (mags) I am advocating for are a new generation that uses AI and machine learning to detect forbidden items. The machines allow students to pass through a machine without having their bags searched or removing items such as belts or jewelry. As long as fans are not carrying anything resembling banned items, entry through the mags should be a snap. A parent is focused on the safety of their child when they get on the bus or are dropped off at their school. Critics of school mags complain of a prison-like atmosphere and an invasion of privacy. The new generations' mags positively address all parties' concerns. Safety is increased significantly, while the advanced technology allows for much less invasive detection techniques. The "prison-like" concerns from critics of older mags near entrances are addressed by new installation techniques. Regardless of how one feels about magnetometers in schools, they are going to be a part of a student's school experience in the future, either through legislation or as a result of tragedies that have been occurring regularly in the United States. Being ahead of the issue will prevent Massachusetts school officials from knee-jerk reactions and the temptation to throw up security equipment after a high-profile incident primarily to appease parents and relieve parental, community, and media pressures. In addition to orientation training on operating the mags themselves, minimal specialized initial training, followed by continuous ongoing training will be provided on recognizing concealed weapons and monitoring for methods that could be used to circumvent the detection systems. The next-generation mags hardware may look much like a standard rectangular metal detector. For those who are concerned about the "prison-like" looking machines, the hardware can operate behind walls or signage if necessary and does not have to be completely installed at entrances or spot checks at different locations. Installing a detector behind the walls will limit the distractions of the students learning. What distinguishes the new mags from current magnetometers or X-ray machines is that they create a 3D image of the space being examined and then use artificial intelligence to determine whether there's a weapon in that space. Rather than depending on a human to evaluate an image, the software runs the



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1 image through a locally stored machine-learning database for weapons like  
2 handguns, knives, or even explosive vests, as well as other objects like cellphones  
3 and keys. If the database matches the image to a weapon, security personnel are  
4 alerted, and a more thorough search can be conducted.

5 **Section 3:** Because school departments are experts at writing grants, I believe that  
6 80% of the cost will be borne by state and local tax-supported grants.

7 **Section 4:** The machines will be operated by trained staff who would have been  
8 stationed at the entrances of the schools, with or without mags. Enforcement will  
9 be carried out by the local school resource officers.

10 **Section 5:** A pilot program will be enacted by 20 high schools throughout the state.  
11 The schools will be chosen randomly and then offered free installation as an  
12 incentive to participate in the program. After the 2025 school year is completed, a  
13 committee made up of parents and educators will make a recommendation to the  
14 state for full implementation of the program for all high schools starting in the 2026  
15 school year, not to extend past the deadline of the 2030 school year.



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**House Bill #53 Committee 3**

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**Sponsors:** Riley Abell

*The People of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented in the Senate and House do enact as follows:*

**Section 1:** This Bill will go into place at the beginning of each secondary school year in 2026 in all Massachusetts public schools. This bill will mandate a half year course during a students 11th school year. Within this course, students will learn about financial literacy, such as how to do taxes, invest, and how to deal with debt. Math teachers will be assigned to teach a class, and it is up to each school how it will be put into students schedules.

**Section 2:** This Bill does not need funding

**Section 3:** Each school will be monitored to make sure they are following the new curriculum. Observation of one class will be mandatory in each school, and any schools who do not comply will be fined 1,500 dollars by the state.

**Section 4:** This Bill will go into effect at the beginning of each Secondary School year in 2025.