

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE SUMMARIES

IT Bond Bill

The Conference Committee reported out their final version of an IT bond bill ([H.4932](#)) on Friday, July 31 and is now on the Governor’s desk. Below are some highlights that might be relevant to MARPA and its partners. Of note, thankfully most of the grants allow for RPA or regional entities to apply on behalf of municipalities.

- \$20.5M for Broadband Infrastructure grants
- \$101M for municipal grants for “improving accessibility of municipal facilities”
- \$10M for municipal grants to adapt municipal facilities for families and individuals with disabilities.
- \$115M for public library projects
- \$25M for municipal/district fire departments to purchase fire safety equipment
- \$10M for the state department of fire services for repair and maintenance of properties
- \$65M for communities disproportionately impacted by crime and the criminal justice system. The grants can be used for workforce training opportunities, affordable housing, technology infrastructure, healthcare services and small business development/expansion.
- \$5M – SNAP Gap. This provision implements a SNAP-Gap “lite” program. When a resident applies for MassHealth/Medicare they will be able to see if they are eligible for SNAP. The full SNAP Gap bill would have applied for eligibility for other state and federal assistance programs like fuel assistance. The IT bond does not include that more expansive language.
- \$37.27M for Food Security Infrastructure Grants. These grants will help the various food distribution stakeholders to upgrade their IT systems, to great new safety guidelines, help food banks with storage and expansion, help different vendors set up curbside pickup, and other needed distribution/delivery/communication needs.

Economic Development Bond

Both chambers have finalized their respective versions of an Economic Development bond bill. The Governor initially filed this bill in January 2020 and both the House and Senate acted on it last week. This bond bill would allow the Governor to borrow the following amounts within the next five years, and is seen as a precursor to a larger statewide economic recovery package.

The bills are currently being negotiated by a Conference Committee, which has yet to release a compromise bill. These are the legislators making up the Conference Committee: Reps: Aaron Michlewitz (Boston), Ann-Margaret Ferrante (Gloucester), Donald Wong (Saugus); and Sens: Michael Rodrigues (Westport), Eric Lesser (Longmeadow) and Patrick O’Connor (Weymouth).

Priority	Original EDBB	Original Funding	Final House (H.4887)	Final Senate Version (S.2874)
-----------------	----------------------	-------------------------	---	--

Housing Choices	SECTIONS 76-84, 198-199, 202	X	HC text included. Sections 15-23, 26-46, 105-106, 119	HC text included. Also extends new thresholds to inclusionary zoning, multifamily zoning around MBTA stations. Also includes abutters appeal language, a statewide housing goal and commission. Sections 25-34, 35-46, 93-94
Eviction Sealing	SECTION 192 – only for minors	x	Only for minors – SECTION 83	Minors cannot be listed on eviction proceedings. Allows an individual to file for a motion to seal records after 3 years – SECTION 87-88
Right to Counsel Pilot	x	X	Includes language requiring mediation between tenants and landlords. Includes \$15M for virtual mediation.	No language included
Muni & Regional Planning Grants	7002- 8032	\$5M	\$10M	\$10M
MA Food Trust	7002- 8036	X	Allows for \$3M from previous bond to be carried over. Adds an additional \$1M	No language included
MA Growth Capital Corporation				
MA Broadband Incentive Fund	7002- 8002	\$5M	\$5M	\$5M
TOD	7004- 0059	\$50M	\$50M	\$25M
Sustainable & Climate Resilient Affordable Housing	7004- 0064	\$10M	\$10M	\$10M
Neighborhood Revitalization	7004- 0065	\$25M	\$40M	\$50M

Police Reform Bill

Governor Baker, the State Senate, and House of Representatives all released their own versions of police reform and accountability legislation in response to recent police violence and protests against systemic racism.

To help form MAPC's position on this legislation, we engaged in a series of discussions with mayors and town managers. They clearly identified as priorities the ability to better shape local police forces through more holistic recruitment processes; dealing strongly with police misconduct; and ensuring all municipal employees receive anti-racism training were identified as priorities. You can view some of the additional priorities identified by municipal leaders in this pledge: <https://www.mapc.org/news/massachusetts-municipal-leaders-pledge-to-take-action-on-systemic-racism/>.

Both the House and the Senate bills include several vital reforms that we support, including many of the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus' priorities within the policing reform legislative proposals. Below are some of the highlights from the two versions of policing reform legislation.

The bills are currently before a Conference Committee, which has yet to release a compromise bill. These are the legislators making up the Conference Committee: Reps: Claire Cronin (Easton), Carlos Gonzalez (Springfield) and Timothy Whelan (Brewster); Sens: William Brownsberger (Belmont), Sonia Chang-Díaz (Boston), and Bruce Tarr (Gloucester).

Priority	Senate (S.2820)	House (H.4886)
Certification & Accountability	Creates a Police Officer Standards and Accreditation Committee (POSAC) that will standardize, establish training curriculum, credential, certify and decertify law enforcement officers.	Creates the Massachusetts Police Standards and Training Commission (MPSTC) that will standardize, establish training curriculum, credential, certify and decertify law enforcement officers.
Independent Prosecution of Illegal Use of Force	Does allow POSAC to refer cases of decertification to AG or independent prosecutor, but no requirement for these entities to pursue prosecution for illegal use of force.	Creates a new Division of Police Standards and Professional Conduct Enforcement within the Attorney General's office. This office will be able to investigate and prosecute cases where use of force is in violation of state harm and has resulted in seriously bodily harm or death. This new office will work closely with MPSTC.
Civil Service Reforms	No civil service exam review or oversight reforms. No reforms to arbitration or collective bargaining agreements.	Creates a commission to study civil service law, including recruitment, hiring, and promotion. Part of the commission's area of review includes arbitration and collective bargaining agreements.
Anti-Racism Training in Muni Govt	No funding for such activities.	No funding for such activities.
Commissions on Structural Racism	No commissions on structural racism but does create a Commission on the Status of African Americans. Bill also requires police training to include	Creates three commissions on structural racism looking at correctional facilities, probate services and the parole process.

	history of slavery, lynching and racist legal institutions in the US.	
Adopt Clear Statutory Limits on Police Use of Force	Establishes clear statutory limits on use of force by police officers – including ban of chokeholds, bans of no-knock operations unless it has a warrant, and requiring for officers to intervene when witnessing abuse of force.	Establishes clear statutory limits on use of force by police officers – including ban of chokeholds, bans of no-knock operations unless it has a warrant, and requiring for officers to intervene when witnessing abuse of force.

Transportation Bond Bill

The Governor filed his \$18B Transportation Bond Bill in July 2019. The House passed their \$18B version of the bond in March 2020, along with H.4530, *An Act relative to transportation finance*, which created new and expanding existing transportation revenue raising options in the Commonwealth. The Senate passed a slightly smaller (\$16.9B) version of the bond in July 2020, but they have not acted on the House’s revenue package. The Transportation Bond Bill is now in conference committee. Committee members include: Representatives Straus, Cusack, and Orrall, and Senators Boncore, Rodrigues, and Tran. Two provisions included in the bond bill advanced independently—\$200M reauthorization for Chapter 90, and a one-year extension of the Fiscal and Management Control Board.

A large portion of the bond includes reauthorizations for MassDOT and authorizations for specific projects. In addition to much needed investments in public transit, all versions of the bill include reauthorization of the Complete Streets program, as well as new grant programs for municipalities to advance local bike and pedestrian projects.

A number of important revenue raising provisions were included in H.4530, including a five cent increase in the gas tax and increases in fees on Transportation Network Company (TNC) rides. The Senate version of the bond bill did include some policy provisions that MAPC supports, and a few of those were included in H.4530, including the creation of congestion commission and more robust TNC data sharing requirements.

While the majority of the revenue raising provisions are limited to H.4530, the House’s version of the bond includes Chairman Straus’ Value Capture proposal, and the Senate included Regional Ballot Initiatives in their bond. MAPC has advocated for both tools to be included in a reconciled bill.

Provision	Governor’s Language (H.4002)	House’s Language (H.4547)	Senate’s Language (S.2836)
Complete Streets	Funded at \$20M	Funded at \$50M, no EJ carve outs	Funded at \$50M, not less than 1/3 of funds must go to EJ communities
SIFT	Not included	Included	Not included
RBI	Not included	Not included	Included

Municipal grant programs	-Transit-supportive partnership program (6622-2187)	-Municipal bus prioritization grants (6921-2111) -Municipal transit station access grants (6921-2112)	-Transit-supportive partnership program (6622-2187) -Public realm improvement program (6921-2109) -Municipal and RTA grants for electric vehicles (6921-2114)
Low-income fares	Not included	H.4530 requires HHS & MBTA to study a low-income fare program	Requires MBTA in coordination with HHS to implement a low-income fare program, including stakeholder engagement plan
Fare evasion decriminalization	Not included	Not included	Included
Congestion Commission	Not included	Included in H.4530	Included
Micromobility	Not included (S.7 addresses scooters)	Not included (separate bills filed on this topic)	Included
TNC Data Sharing	Not included (S.2289 includes similar data sharing provisions to what House filed)	H.4530 included TNC data sharing provisions	Strengthens TNC data sharing provisions in H.4530

Climate Legislation

In the final days of session the House took up Climate Legislation building off of the Senate's Next Generation Climate Bill that they had passed in January 2020. This set us up for a conference bill on Climate that includes a number of our priorities. The Road Map bill, filed by Rep. Meschino and endorsed by the Legislative Committee forms a backbone of the House's approach for a net zero 2050 with regular updates to the plan and analysis of economic, environmental and public health impacts and benefits and burdens on environmental justice populations.

A conference committee was appointed in the first week of August and, as of this writing, has not yet met. The group includes many familiar faces to the conference committee discussion on energy and climate last legislative session. From the House: Reps. Thomas Golden of Lowell, Patricia Haddad of Somerset, and Minority Leader Brad Jones of North Reading. From the Senate: Sens. Mike Barrett of Lexington, Cynthia Stone Creem of Newton, and Patrick O'Connor of Weymouth.

Other critical inclusions are listed below:

Priority	Senate (S.2500)	House (H.4933)
Net Zero target by 2050 and updated interim goals	Included (branches have differences in detail of implementation)	Included (branches have differences in detail of implementation)

Environmental Justice	Not Included	Amends Environmental Impact Review to include public health and evaluation of impacts; changes outreach responsibilities for agencies and changes the requirements for siting projects in environmental justice communities.
Workforce Training	Included	Includes requirement that the program target minority and women-owned businesses, individuals living in EJ communities and those displaced by fossil fuel energy. Requires \$12M from energy efficiency fund annually
Building code	Includes change in membership of board overseeing buildings Requires DOER develop municipal opt-in net zero code within 1 year and requires it be used by Green Communities program in 2028	Includes change in membership of board and also includes term limits for chair and vice chair
Building Energy Reporting	Annual reporting to DOER (or municipality if requested) of energy use by largest buildings with report available online and data sharing available to municipalities	Not included
Green Community Funding	Expands to allow funding on energy storage, adoption of energy efficiency policies, ZEV related items and coordination of outreach	Not included
Appliance Standards	Included in separate bill passed this session	Included
Increase to Renewable Portfolio Standard	Not included	Included
Affordable Housing Energy Retrofits	Not included	Allows Energy Efficiency program to fund whole home retrofits and requires DHCD to make recommendations to improve access to the program for affordable housing
Electric Vehicles	Included in a separate bill	Includes requirement for report on priority electric vehicle charging and guide for municipalities

Wind energy	Not Included	Increases bid amount to 3600 MW
-------------	--------------	---------------------------------

Census

Please don't forget to fill your 2020 Census form! You can complete it online [HERE](#). Please encourage members of your community to fill out the Census in order to get an accurate count for your municipality and the state.