MAPC is grateful to the Governor and the Legislature for prioritizing legislation that supports cities and towns. Governor Healey’s administration hosted listening sessions over the past year and listened to cities and towns top needs when creating “The Municipal Empowerment Act,” S.2571, which includes more than 80 policies. MAPC is in strong support of the following measures to support cities and towns throughout the Commonwealth.

Key Legislative Provisions in the Municipal Empowerment Act:

Makes Permanent Pandemic Era Changes:

- Enable local option for remote or hybrid meetings for public bodies in perpetuity.
- Enable local licensing authorities with local approval to grant approval for outdoor food and alcohol services without further state approval.
- Enable restaurants to access licenses to sell to-go alcoholic beverages.

Municipal Governance:

- Increase the maximum bond term for school projects from 30 years to 40 years.
- Allow municipalities to amortize over 3 years any deficit related to a declared emergency.
- Allow municipalities to enter joint cooperative services for local financial officials.
- Allow municipalities to enforce the statutory prohibition on keeping double poles up after 90 days after passing a local ordinance. Penalties up to $1,000 could be imposed per occurrence.
**Continued Key Legislative Provisions in the Municipal Empowerment Act:**

**Procurement Updates:**
- Equalize Ch. 30B thresholds for advertised procurements to $100K for all municipal purchasing, not just schools.
- Remove the requirement to post certain contracts on COMMBUYS.
- Amend cooperative purchasing language to make it easier for municipalities to select multiple vendors to fulfill an RFP.
- Update procurement language to make it easier for municipalities to procure and utilize electric school buses.

**Local Option Taxes:**
- Establish a new local option motor vehicle excise surcharge of 5%.
- Increase the ceiling for local option lodging tax from 6% to 7% (and 6.5% to 7.5% in Boston) and local option meals tax from .75% to 1%.

**Contact the Government Affairs team:**
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MAPC urges local officials and residents to contact your legislators to share your support of these policies and investments and to share your experiences accessing housing in your region. Learn more about MAPC’s full legislative agenda at: [mapc.ma/Legislative-Priorities](http://mapc.ma/Legislative-Priorities)

Send a Municipal Empowerment Act Advocacy Letter at: [mapc.ma/MEA-letter-template](http://mapc.ma/MEA-letter-template)