

Senate Environmental Bond Bill Summary (S.3064)

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On April 8th, the Senate Committee on Ways and Means favorably reported their version of the [Environmental Bond Bill](#), also known as the Mass Ready Act, which the Governor filed in June of 2025. On April 15th, the Senate considered 337 amendments during debate, which increased the size of the bill from \$3.64 billion to \$3.95 billion. This is a \$850 million (27%) increase from the bill the Governor filed and a \$1.55 billion (64.5%) increase from the environmental bond bill that was signed into law in 2018.

The bill includes potential investments in a number of new and existing programs as well as outside sections that touch on a wide range of policies. However, because this is a bond bill, funding will need to be allocated by the Administration via future capital plans, which are often released in late June of each year. Those plans create a road map for allocated funding for projects and programs over the next five years.

What comes next: The bill now heads to the House for consideration. After they pass their version of a bill, a conference committee will work to draft a compromise version of the bill that both the House and Senate will need to pass again before the Governor can sign the final bill into law. Additionally, because this is a money bill, the Governor can make line item vetoes to the bill. If the Legislature chooses, they can vote to override any of the Governor’s vetoes with support of 2/3rds of each chamber’s members.

Key MAPC Line Items

line item		2018 Enviro Bond Bill (Millions)	MAPC’s Request (Millions)	Governor’s Proposal (Millions)	Senate’s Proposal (Millions)
2000-7088	Municipal Vulnerability Program (MVP) <i>Nonprofits can now receive funding</i>	\$70	\$500	\$315	\$510 ¹
2000-7087	Capitalizes the Transfer of Development Rights Program (TDR)²	\$30.4	Increase over 2018	\$25	\$25
2200-7029	Funding to Improve Water Infrastructure and Address PFAS	\$0	\$60	\$120	\$125 ³
0640-1008	Funding for the Drinking Water Revolving Fund	\$60.3	Increase over 2018	\$385	\$450 ⁴
2000-7078	MassTrails	\$25	\$100	<i>Included in a larger line item</i>	\$50 ⁵
1100-2524	Grants to municipalities, RPAs and others for capital investments in climate mitigation	\$0	Provide adequate funding	\$50	\$50

Key MAPC Policy Provisions

¹ Includes \$10m earmark for Chelsea and Everett for construction of Island End River Flood Resilience Project

² Part of a broader line item.

³ Includes \$15m in earmarks for local projects

⁴ Includes \$50m earmark for Buzzards Bay

⁵ Includes \$10m earmark for accessible trail design and construction

Resilience Revolving Loan Fund (Section 23): This section is similar to language the Governor included in her bill and it creates a new non-budgetary fund administered by the Mass Clean Water Trust, to provide loans to municipalities and public water and wastewater districts for climate resiliency infrastructure projects. It also allows the fund’s advisory board to issue bonds.

Residential Flood Disclosure (Section 81): This section, which mirrors the Governor’s bill, would require EEA and EOHLC to develop a flood disclosure form to inform prospective purchasers and tenants about the flood risks of residential real property. The document may include information about historical flooding and past damage to the property, whether the property is in a flood plain, and details about flood insurance. It would also ensure that residential leases include information about the National Flood Insurance Program, and that rental insurance does not typically cover flood damage.

MAPC Priority Policies Added by Amendment

Island End River filed by Senator DiDomenico: Authorizes \$10m within 2000-7088 to advance crucial flood and recreational amenities in Chelsea and Everett. Without it, every major flood could inflict \$200 million in direct damage and billions in secondary costs of lost wages, lost sales, and health care costs due to food insecurity made worse by the closure of the produce distribution center that supports all of New England. You can learn more about the project thanks to a timely article from [Commonwealth Beacon](#).

Environmental Health of the Ipswich River filed by Senator Tarr: Authorizes \$1.5 million within 2000-7089 for work associated with the water supply and distribution infrastructure improvements in the Ipswich River Basin, one of the Commonwealth’s most endangered rivers.

Supporting Upstream Solutions to PFAS Pollution filed by Senator Brownsberger: Authorizes \$5 million for research, technical assistance and a competitive grant program to advance safer alternatives to PFAS for products and in manufacturing within 2200-7029.

Food Trust Program filed by Senator Moore: Increases the authorization of the Food Trust Program by \$2.5m to \$7.5m within line item 2511-0124 to improve health outcomes and to encourage innovation in healthy food retailing and distribution in nutritionally underserved communities.

Drought Taskforce filed by Senator Eldridge (Section 13): Creates a taskforce to help maintain and update the state’s drought management plan. It also authorizes the EEA Secretary to declare a drought and order water conservation measures.

Studying feasibility of banning polystyrene filed by Senator Lewis (Section 100): Requires DEP to study the feasibility and benefits of banning foam and solid polystyrene in the Commonwealth.

Massachusetts Climate Bank filed by Senator Mark (Section 106): Requires EEA and ANF to issue a report to evaluate the possibility of creating a climate bank that provide loans and other forms of financial support to address climate resiliency, mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and support clean energy.

Other Notable Funding

Line Item	Program	Gov S.2542 (Millions)	SWM S.3050 (Millions)	Senate S.3064 (Millions)	Funding Office

2000-7086	Dam removal, hazard mitigation for inland flooding and other projects like seawalls, jetties and nature-base solutions	\$93.5	\$93.5	\$93.5	EEA
2000-7083	Coastal infrastructure design, construction, acquisition, reconstruction, rehabilitation, retrofitting, repair or removal	\$200	\$200	\$231.8 ⁶	EEA
2000-7068	Tree planting on public and private lands	\$10	\$10	\$10	EEA
2000-7082	Grants for natural resource conservation and open space preservation and parks ⁷	\$120	\$125.5	\$125.5 ⁸	EEA
2000-7087	For EEA land acquisition	\$85	\$85	\$85 ⁹	EEA
2000-7089	For local environmental, recreational, resiliency and preservation projects	NA	\$.1	\$179.8 ¹⁰	EEA
2000-7090	For the construction of thermal infrastructure boreholes on publicly owned land.	NA	\$15	\$15	EEA
2511-0124	Food Security Grant Program	\$125	\$130	\$132.5 ¹¹	MDAR
2200-7026	Hazardous Material Clean Up	\$42	\$42	\$42	DEP
2200-7030	Filed by Senator Lovely, establishes and funds mandatory PFAS testing and remediation requirements for all K-12 schools and childcare centers.	NA	NA	\$15	DEP
2200-7027	Capital investments in air, water, and land resource protection, climate adaptation and decarbonization	\$27.8	\$27.8	\$32.8 ¹²	DEP
2200-7028	Solid waste facility closure, monitoring and clean up	\$28.1	\$28.1	\$28.1	DEP
2840-7028	Planning, construction, repair, and/or removal of DCR Properties	\$587.3	\$612.37	\$623.9 ¹³	DCR
2890-7036	Planning, construction, repair, and/or removal of DCR Roadways	\$176.7	\$176.7	\$176.7	DCR

⁶ Includes \$6.75m in earmarked funds

⁷ MassTrails grants included in this line item in Gov proposal, separated in SWM and Senate proposal.

⁸ Includes \$5.5m earmarked for the Healthy Soils Program

⁹ \$25m earmarked to capitalize the Transfer of Development Rights Revolving Fund

¹⁰ \$179.7m in local projects added including \$5 million for the MWRA, Somerville and Cambridge to address untreated combined sewer overflows at Alewife Brook led by Sen. Jehlen.

¹¹ \$5m earmark for the Mass Food Trust Program in SWM proposal increased to \$7.5m.

¹² Includes a \$5m earmark filed by Senator Gomez for pilot program monitoring indoor air pollution and mold in schools, municipal buildings, correctional facilities, public housing and other locations.

¹³ Includes \$36.5m towards specific projects including \$25m earmarked for wastewater treatment at King's Beach in Lynn recommended in SWM.

2800-7026	Dam removal and maintenance	\$308	\$428	\$428.1 ¹⁴	DCR
2800-1123	DCR land acquisition	\$40	\$40	\$40	DCR
2800-7024	Forestry Funding with preference given to areas with heat islands	\$20	\$20	\$20	DCR
2300-7031	Ecological restoration capital programs	\$40	\$95	\$105.5 ¹⁵	DFG
7004-4785	For the Mass Housing Finance Agency to capitalize a residential production momentum fund	\$50	\$50	\$50	EOHLC
8324-0102	Authorizes \$25 million for the PFAS Public Safety Fund to help purchase PFAS free fire fighter gear and dispose of old gear ¹⁶	NA	NA	\$25	EOPSS

Policies of Note added to the Bill

Quabbin Host Community Trust Fund (Section 5): This new fund, overseen by EEA, will be used to support public safety and the development of municipalities within the Quabbin watershed.

Municipal Reforestation (Section 16): Filed by Senator Creem, this amendment establishes a municipal reforestation program to provide municipalities with grants and technical assistance and focus on addressing heat islands.

Post Consumer Paint Stewardship Program (Section 17): Establishes requirements that manufacturers submit a plan for the establishment of a postconsumer paint product stewardship program. The program must be implemented six months after the program is approved. Manufactures must submit a report each year detailing the results of the program. It also creates a trust fund to administer the program.

Massachusetts Plastics Reduction Act (Section 19): Includes language from existing legislation that would require that:

- Retailers provide carryout bags that are made of recycled paper or a reusable bag. Customers can be charged 10 cents per bag, with 5 cents going to DOR. This money will help fund the Plastics Environmental Protection Fund (Section 23).
- The state is barred from procuring single use water bottles that are less than 21 ounces.
- The state creates a program to recycle bulk plastic materials.

Prohibiting Hotels from Providing Plastic-Packaged Toiletries (Section 19) filed by Senator Keenan: Bars hotels from providing plastic personal care products that are less than 9 oz.

Banning Black Plastic (Section 21) filed by Senator Lewis: Bars food service ware from being made from black plastic. Does not apply to prepared food packaged outside of the Commonwealth.

Water Utilities Reports (Section 22): Adds language that requires water utilities to file biannual reports with EEA regarding customer service data. Initially, this was quarterly, but was changed via amendment.

¹⁴ Includes \$120m earmarked for the Amelia Earhart Dam as recommended by SWM.

¹⁵ Increases an earmark for flood mitigation in CT River Valley from \$50m as recommended by SWM to \$60m and continues a \$5m recommended earmark for SRPEDD to address the Assawompset pond.

¹⁶ Filed as an amendment by Senator Moore

Reports will include the number of customers served, the number of disconnections for nonpayment, and other related information.

Plastics Environmental Protection Fund (Section 23): Creates a Plastics Environmental Protection Fund overseen by DEP. The fund can be used to:

- Improve the air, water, soil or other environmental conditions for low- and moderate-income communities
- Provide reusable bags at no-cost to low- and moderate-income communities & individuals
- Issue grants to small businesses to assist in the reduction of plastic use within businesses
- Provide multilingual, culturally competent educational materials and programming on bag reuse and recycling and other aspects of environmental protection.

Nature-Based Solutions Pilot filed by Senator Crighton (Section 25): Require EEA to establish a pilot to create an efficient permitting pathway for nature-based research and demonstration projects.

Labeling Disposable Wipes (Section 59 and 92): Requires that disposable wipes be labeled with “do not flush” and creates a penalty for that language not being included.

Equitable Representation for Quabbin Watershed Communities (Section 84) filed by Senator Comerford: Adds one resident of the Quabbin Reservoir watershed to the MWRA Board.

Reducing Barriers to Promote Housing Production for Priority Housing Projects (Section 60) filed by Senator Finegold: Exempts priority housing projects from local regulations that exceed state standards for subsurface sewage disposal and wetlands protection.

Buzzards Bay Watershed Commission (Section 97): Creates a commission to study revenue sources for essential wastewater infrastructure improvements in the Buzzards Bay watershed area.

Definition of Priority Housing (Section 105): This version of the bill includes a definition of priority housing projects that would occur near coastal areas including being adequately served by utilities, near multiple modes of transportation, and energy efficient. EEA and DEP will be consulted on the development of these regulations.

Housing Production Incentives (Section 108) filed by Senator Finegold: Municipalities that have policies that encourage housing production can benefit from a preference modifier in the distribution of grant funding made available in this bill.

Notable Similarities to the Governor’s Version

Massachusetts Food Policy Council Seats (Section 7-8): Increases the number of seats from 18 to 20 on the Council with new seats held by the Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries and the director of the UMass Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment or their designees.

DCR Stewardship Council (Section 9): Directs the Council and DCR Commissioner to consider certain DCR lands for potential designation and long-term passive management as a forest reserve as long as it helps contribute the state’s climate mitigation strategy, enhances climate resiliency, or provides opportunities for outdoor recreations opportunities, among other requirements.

Resilience Revolving Loan Fund (Section 23): Creates a new non-budgetary fund, administered by the Mass Clean Water Trust, to provide loans to municipalities and public water and wastewater districts for climate resiliency infrastructure projects. It also allows the fund’s advisory board to issue bonds.

Historic Connecticut River Water Trail (Section 23): Creates an Historic Connecticut River Water Trail Marking Fund to be overseen by EEA to support the maintenance of the trail.

Priority Housing (Section 25): Allows the secretary of EOHLC to establish priority housing projects that do not require environmental impact reports.

Right of First Refusal for DCR (Section 30 and 34) and **MDAR** (Section 32): Gives DCR the right of first refusal to purchase certain forest and recreational land or agricultural land depending on the agency that will potentially be converted for industrial or commercial use.

Expedited Decision Making (Sections 41 – 48 and 52): Allows the Governor’s designee to make certain decisions related to certain water adjacent permitting and licensing issues.

Chapter 91 Waterways General License Permits (Section 51): Introduces a new system that aims to streamline the approval process for projects that previously required individual waterways licenses. The general license permit system would apply to housing, marsh restoration, culvert replacements, and invasive vegetation removal in tidelands, ponds, rivers, and streams, among others. Language was added to also include nature-based solutions.

Great Ponds Access (Section 53): Amends the definition of great ponds asserting that the state owns the waters or land below the low water line of a great pond in perpetuity. It also allows the general public to travel between high and low water lines without being charged with trespassing.

Sewer & Water Infrastructure Right of Way (Section 57 and 58): Allows DCR to grant sewer and water infrastructure access to municipalities, sewer and water authorities rights to build sewer, drain, and water supply infrastructure in their rights of way.

Waste Facility Access (Section 61) Allows DEP staff to enter any solid waste disposal facilities without a warrant to investigate, sample or inspect any records, condition, equipment, practice or property relating to activities subject to this section, and may at any time enter such premises for the purpose of protecting the public health or safety, or to prevent damage to the environment.

Division of Fish and Wildlife Lands (Section 65): Allows the Director of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife to set aside areas under their control as a forest reserve, for the purposes of carbon sequestration, resiliency, outdoor recreation, and/or research purposes.

Coastal Construction (Section 66 – 69): Makes various changes to language governing the removal, fill, dredging or altering of land bordering waters. Changes are primarily to notification of written notice, including adding electronic notification options, language governing failure to hold a hearing and notifying abutters within 1,000 feet of construction instead of 100 feet.

BBRS Seats & Responsibilities (Section 76 – 79) Adds two additional seats to the State Board of Building Regulations and Standards to be appointed by the Governor with expertise in climate risk, climate resiliency and housing development. One of these three seats will replace the seat currently held by an advanced building technology expert. These sections also require the BBRS to address climate impacts for the purposes of reducing exposure and damages to structures and protecting the health, safety and security of the occupants or users of buildings.

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Fund Repeal (Section 85): Removes language that provides DOR with 10% of the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Fund that comes to the fund via donated tax return.

Port Development Commission (Section 95): Creates a special commission on Commonwealth Port Development to recommend an integrated statewide strategic vision for Massachusetts' ports; a report will be filed 18 months after the bill is signed into law.

Connecticut River Valley Commission (Section 96): Creates a commission on flood risk mitigation and resilience in the Connecticut River Valley. The commission will prepare a plan that identifies and prioritizes regional resilience projects that reduce flood risk in the Connecticut River Valley through 2050. An earmark towards implementing the recommendations was increased from \$50m to \$60m during debate. The report will be due 18 months after the bill is signed.

Quabbin Payments (Section 102): Requires MWRA to pay Belchertown, Hardwick, Ludlow, New Salem, Orange, Pelham, Petersham, Phillipston, Shutesbury, Ware and Wendell \$50,000 annually for hosting the Quabbin Reservoir. Athol and Barre were also added to the list of communities to receive payment by Senator Comerford.

Resilient Design of Culverts (Section 107): Allows EEA to establish standards and guidance for the design of resilient culverts to expedite the permitting of new municipal or replacement of existing municipal culverts.