

It's Time to Address Extreme Heat!

An Act promoting resilience against the heat-related impacts of climate change
Please support **S.2244** / **H.3495** filed by Senator Creem and Rep. Garballey

Did you know that 2023 tied 2012 as Massachusetts' hottest year on record?

Extreme heat remains the deadliest of climate events, which can cripple infrastructure and melt pavement, devastate agricultural production, interrupt school learning, and disrupt religious pilgrimages. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data, in 2023 more than 2,300 people in the U.S. died due to the effects of excessive heat, the highest CDC number in 45 years of records. These numbers are likely underreported due to challenges with accurately identifying heat as a factor of death. Further, Massachusetts lacks many of the programs, policies, and institutional knowledge to respond to extreme heat in the same way that we respond to extreme cold.

What the Bill Does

- Allows for the creation of a low-income cooling assistance program
- Bars utility shut offs in the summer when certain criteria are met
- Allows the State to evaluate the possibility of amending the sanitary code to include maximum temperature requirements for habitable rooms
- Establishes an Extreme Heat Task Force to improve the Commonwealth's response and resiliency to these extreme weather events

Why it is Needed

- Massachusetts has the second oldest median housing stock in the nation, which is a critical factor in indoor overheating during hot weather
- The bill will bring Massachusetts in line with New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Oregon, California and others to provide income-based cooling assistance to those that need it
- Will help us build cross-jurisdictional knowledge for how best to respond to the impacts of extreme heat to ensure lives are saved, infrastructure is resilient, and best practices are shared and implemented

