



Meeting the Commonwealth's Water Infrastructure Future

Support HB 1022 / SB 563 An Act relative to meeting the Commonwealth's water infrastructure future

Sponsored by Representatives Philips, Kilcoyne, Kushmerek, and Giannino and Senator Cronin (in Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources)

ISSUE:

Massachusetts is facing a widening water infrastructure funding gap that threatens public health, economic growth, and quality of life. The state's water infrastructure—some of it dating back to the 1800s—is beyond its useful life. New regulatory mandates and contamination issues like Per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are increasing costs. Funding is insufficient to meet our growing needs (estimated by the US Environmental Protection Agency at almost \$37B over the next 20 years). The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provided a much-needed influx of funding, but it accounts for only about 3% of what is needed, and the funding runs out at the end of 2026. The State Revolving Fund (SRF) process is highly competitive and has capacity constraints, leaving essential projects like pipe replacements without financing. Public Water Systems and Publicly Owned Treatment Works (wastewater) utilities are struggling to keep rates affordable for their customers while making the investments needed to renew their infrastructure and comply with regulatory requirements.

WHAT THESE BILLS WILL DO:

They seek to implement recommendations made by the Water Infrastructure Finance Commission in 2012 to move us toward closing the funding gap. The bill provides:

- **\$200 Million Annually for General Water Infrastructure Grants**
 - Supports “bread and butter” upgrades like main replacements and tank repairs
- **\$138 Million for the Clean Water Trust**
 - Expands the Trust’s ability to issue 0% loans and incentives to improve affordability
 - Helps meet regulatory mandates under the Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act
- **\$78.5 Million for Sewer Rate Relief Fund**
 - Helps utilities manage rising costs and protect ratepayers
- **\$375 Million for HousingWorks Infrastructure Grants**
 - Enables communities to build the infrastructure needed to unlock housing growth
- **\$2 Billion for MWRA Expansion**
 - Connects new communities to a clean, resilient water system

- Prioritizes areas with PFAS contamination and housing development potential
- **\$10 Million for Regional Water Supply Access**
 - Assists communities dealing with contamination or supply stress to access regional systems
- **\$10 Million for Climate Resilience Planning**
 - Funds climate adaptation planning, as now required by some wastewater permits
- **\$200,000 for Biohub Research**
 - Supports science-based study of biosolids and PFAS to inform future disposal policy

KEY POINTS:

Public Health Priority

- Prepares systems to meet new and emerging federal and state regulations
- Helps avoid delays in critical compliance that could put residents at risk
- Targets PFAS contamination, lead service line replacement, and CSO elimination

Smart, Equitable Investment

- Prioritizes disadvantaged communities and affordable housing growth areas
- Creates an Interbasin Transfer Review Commission to review a 40-year-old law
- Forms a Water Infrastructure Efficiency Task Force to review regulatory hurdles, as well as costs/feasibility for complying with regulatory requirements.

Workforce Development

- Provides grants to vocational and community college programs
- Supports training, recruitment, and succession planning in the water sector
- Helps build a diverse pipeline of water professionals

Why Support H.1022 / SB 563?

- **Protects Public Health** – ensures safe drinking water for all residents and a clean environment
- **Reduces the Funding Gap** – targets grants where they're needed most
- **Supports Housing Development** – supports the infrastructure needed for smart growth
- **Builds Resilience** – helps communities prepare for climate and regulatory shifts
- **Strengthens Local Economies** – through job creation, ratepayer relief, and infrastructure readiness
- **Investing in water is investing in health, the environment, housing, jobs, and our future.**

ACTIONS REQUESTED:

We respectfully ask the legislature to support increased funding for water infrastructure. We request the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to advance this legislation (HB 1022 / SB 563) and support its passage during the current legislative session.