

HOUSE No. 2696

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Margaret R. Scarsdale

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act establishing a public safety building authority and assistance program.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Margaret R. Scarsdale</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>	<i>1/10/2025</i>
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>
<i>David T. Vieira</i>	<i>3rd Barnstable</i>	<i>1/24/2025</i>
<i>Steven George Xiarhos</i>	<i>5th Barnstable</i>	<i>1/27/2025</i>

HOUSE No. 2696

By Representative Scarsdale of Pepperell, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2696) of Margaret R. Scarsdale and others for legislation to establish a public safety building authority and assistance program. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3803 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)

An Act establishing a public safety building authority and assistance program.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 The General Laws are hereby amended by inserting after chapter 22E the following
2 chapter:-

3 CHAPTER 22F.

4 PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

5 Section 1. Whereas the costs of building police stations, fire stations, and other public
6 safety facilities are increasing at an unsustainable rate and local governments need flexibility in
7 public safety building assistance to ensure that local needs for public safety facility space,
8 downtown development, open space, and community space are met; and to promote the
9 thoughtful planning and construction of public safety facility space in order to ensure safe and

adequate plant facilities for the public safety facilities, and to assist towns in meeting the cost thereof, there is hereby established a public safety building assistance program. It is in the best interests of the Commonwealth and its citizens to create an authority to achieve the objectives of effective management and planning of the commonwealth's investments in public safety building assets, maintaining good repair, efficient and economical construction and maintenance, financial sustainability of the public safety building assistance program, thoughtful community development, and accessibility.

Section 2. (a) There is hereby created a body politic and corporate and a public instrumentality to be known as the Massachusetts Public Safety Building Authority, which shall be an independent public authority not subject to the supervision and control of any other executive office, department, commission, board, bureau, agency or political subdivision of the commonwealth except as specifically provided in any general or special law. The exercise by the authority of the powers conferred by this chapter shall be considered to be the performance of an essential public function.

(b) The purpose of this authority would be to oversee a public facilities building program to provide state building assistance for the new construction, renovation, or remodeling of police stations, fire stations, and other public safety facilities.

(c) The authority shall consist of the state treasurer, who shall serve as chairperson, the secretary of administration and finance, the secretary of the executive office of public safety and security, and 4 additional members appointed by the state treasurer, 2 of whom shall have practical experience in public safety facilities planning, public safety facility construction, or architecture and public safety facility design, and 2 of whom shall be persons in the field of law

enforcement or fire management, each of whom shall serve a term of 2 years; but, a person appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve only for the unexpired term. An appointed member of the authority shall be eligible for reappointment. The authority shall annually elect 1 of its members to serve as vice-chairperson. Each member of the authority serving ex officio may appoint a designee pursuant to section 6A of chapter 30.

(d) Four members of the authority shall constitute a quorum, and the affirmative vote of 4 members of the authority shall be necessary and sufficient for any action taken by the authority. No vacancy in the membership of the authority shall impair the right of a quorum to exercise all the rights and duties of the authority. Members shall serve without pay but shall be reimbursed for actual expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties. The chairperson of the authority shall report to the governor and to the general court no less than annually, to assist the executive and legislative branches in coordinating public safety and fiscal policies of the Commonwealth.

(e) Any action of the authority may take effect immediately and need not be published or posted unless otherwise provided by law. The authority shall be subject to all provisions of chapter 30A, and records pertaining to the administration of the authority shall be subject to section 42 of chapter 30 and section 10 of chapter 66. All monies of the authority shall be considered to be public funds for purposes of chapter 12A. The operations of the authority shall be subject to chapter 268A and chapter 268B and all other operational or administrative standards or requirements to the same extent as the office of the state treasurer.

SECTION 2. Chapter 10 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 35SSS, the following section:-

Section 35TTT. (a) As used in this section, the following words shall, unless the context requires otherwise, have the following meanings:-

"Authority", the Massachusetts Municipal Building Authority.

"Dedicated sales tax revenue amount", all monies received by the Commonwealth equal to 0.5 percent of the receipts from sales, as defined by chapter 64H, and 0.5 percent of the sales price of purchases, as defined by chapter 64I, from that portion of the taxes imposed under said chapters 64H and 64I as excises upon the sale and use at retail of tangible property or of services, and upon the storage, use or other consumption of tangible property or of services, including interest thereon or penalties, but not including any portion of the taxes that constitute special receipts within the meaning of subsection (b 1/2) of section 10 of chapter 152 of the acts of 1997 or within the meaning of subsection (b 1/2) of said section 10 of said chapter 152 or any portion of the taxes imposed on the sale of meals as defined in paragraph (h) of section 6 of said chapter 64H.

"Receipts from sales", gross receipts from nonexempt sales, less amounts abated or reimbursed.

"Sales price of purchases", sales price of nonexempt purchases, less amounts abated or reimbursed.

(b) There shall be established on the books of the commonwealth a separate fund, to be known as the Municipal Building Modernization and Reconstruction Trust Fund. There shall be credited to the fund the dedicated sales tax revenue amount. Annual receipts into the fund on account of any fiscal year shall be considered to meet the full obligation of the Commonwealth to the authority for such fiscal year.

(c) Amounts in the fund shall be held by the state treasurer or his designee, as trustee and not on account of the Commonwealth, exclusively for the purposes of the authority, and the state treasurer shall disburse amounts in the fund to the authority, without further appropriation, upon the request from time to time of the executive director of the authority. All amounts in the fund, including investment earnings, shall be available for expenditure by the authority for any lawful purpose, including without limitation payment of debt service on debt obligations issued by the authority, and may be pledged to secure debt of the authority in such manner and according to such priority as the authority may determine.

(d) The authority shall certify annually to the treasurer as trustee with copies provided to the clerks of the house and senate and to the house and senate committees on ways and means that it has made provision in its annual budget and its capital plan under section 17 of chapter 70B for sufficient amounts to be available to meet debt service payments or other payments due under financing obligations, including, without limitation, leases or grant obligations.

(e) Subject to applicable restrictions contained in any bond resolution, trust or security agreement or credit enhancement agreement, surety bond, or insurance policy related to indebtedness incurred by the authority, including without limitation coverage requirements, if the authority shall determine that the balance of the fund exceeds the amount necessary to achieve the purposes of the authority, including, without limitation, to meet debt service payments, lease payments and grant obligations, the authority may transfer the excess amount to the Commonwealth.

(f) In order to increase the marketability of any bonds or notes of the trust which may be secured by or payable from amounts held in the fund, the sums to be credited to the fund are

98 hereby impressed with a trust for the benefit of the trust and the holders from time to time of the
99 bonds or notes, and in consideration of the acceptance of payment for the bonds or notes, the
100 Commonwealth covenants with the purchasers and all subsequent holders and transferees of the
101 bonds or notes that while the bond or note shall remain outstanding, and so long as the principal
102 of or interest on the bond or note shall remain unpaid, the sums to be credited to the fund shall
103 not be diverted from the control of the trust and, so long as the sums are necessary, as determined
104 by the authority in accordance with any applicable bond resolution, trust or security agreement or
105 credit enhancement agreement, surety bond or insurance policy related to indebtedness incurred
106 by the trust, for the purposes for which they have been pledged, the rates of the excises imposed
107 by said chapters 64H and 64I shall not be reduced below the rates prescribed by this section.