

BUILDING JUSTICE WITH JOBS

BILLS: [HD3338](#) & [SD2102](#)

SPONSORS: Sen. Pacheco & Rep. Robinson, Rep. LeBoeuf, Rep. Sabadosa, Rep. Gouveia



Families across Massachusetts lack affordable and healthy housing. Low-income and Black and brown communities disproportionately live in aging and energy-inefficient housing units where residents are exposed to hazardous health and safety conditions, such as mold and indoor air pollution.[1] Additionally, the building sector is the second largest source of emissions in Massachusetts, with most of those emissions coming from heating. [2] Although Massachusetts has some of the leading home energy efficiency programs in the country, these programs do not go far enough to address the climate and housing crises in our state.

The Building Justice with Jobs Act will put thousands of people to work retrofitting one million homes over the next decade to make them safer, healthier, and more energy efficient.

The Building Justice with Jobs Act will build on Massachusetts' historic leadership in energy efficiency programs by expanding the services the state offers through the Low Income Weatherization Assistance Program and Mass Save. The buildings retrofitted through these programs will be electrified – by installing heat pumps, electric ranges and electric water heaters – and will receive improved insulation, air sealing, and other weatherization measures. Each of these projects will lower families' utility bills and improve their homes' comfort and safety. Low-income communities – who have long borne the brunt of utility shutoffs and hazardous housing – will be the first to receive these services, followed by homeowners and tenants all across Massachusetts. Leveraging federal funding and the state's borrowing capacity will enable Massachusetts to dramatically expand the reach of these programs to meet people's urgent needs and to make significant progress towards the state's plans to reach net zero emissions by 2050.

Retrofitting one million homes through the Building Justice with Jobs Act will create thousands of new jobs across the state. All of these jobs will provide workers with fair wages and high quality benefits through collective bargaining. Additionally, the program will fund union-led job training programs to equip workers with the skills to perform energy efficiency and weatherization retrofits. Companies that bid on projects created by the Building Justice with Jobs Act will be required to use equitable hiring practices, ensuring that Black and brown workers and women workers do not face employment discrimination.

[1] Adamkiewicz, G., Spengler, J.D., Harley, A.E., Stoddard, A., Yang, M., Alvarez-Reeves, M. and Sorensen, G. (2014). Environmental Conditions in Low-Income Urban Housing: Clustering and Associations With Self-Reported Health. *American Journal of Public Health*, [online] 104(9), pp.1650-1656. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3954449/>.

[2] Mass CEC. (2019). The Case for Clean Heating and Cooling. Available at: <https://www.masscec.com/blog/2019/03/19/case-clean-heating-and-cooling>.