

# Improving Air Quality for Communities burdened by Transportation Pollution

**Become a Co-sponsor of [HD2696](#), [SD1742](#)**

**Sponsors: Representatives Barber and Connolly, Senator Jehlen**

Now more than ever, we know that breathing clean air is a matter of life and health. COVID-19 has shown that high concentrations of pollution can lead to increased mortality from respiratory disease. Air quality affects every corner of our public health. Massachusetts residents and workers are exposed to air pollution caused by cars, trucks, trains, boats, and planes. Environmental Justice (EJ) populations — people of color, Indigenous people, low-income people, and limited English proficient speakers — are especially affected by air quality problems. On average, residents of color in Massachusetts are exposed to pollution from vehicle emissions that are 26 to 36 percent higher than the exposure of white residents.

An Act to Improve Outdoor and Indoor Air Quality for Communities Burdened by Transportation Pollution (Air Quality Bill) will improve indoor and outdoor air quality, especially for EJ populations and those communities burdened by air emissions from highways, ports, airports, and congested roadways. The bill will:

- ✓ **Expand outdoor air monitoring** for black carbon, ultrafine particulate matter, and criteria pollutants in pollution hotspots.
- ✓ **Set and achieve ambitious air quality targets** by 2030 and 2035.
- ✓ **Require installation of air filters in existing eligible buildings**, such as schools, residential buildings with more than 2 tenant-occupied units, certain commercial buildings, and correctional facilities within 200 meters of congested roadways.
- ✓ **Require advanced HVAC filtration systems** (e.g., MERV 16) **for new eligible buildings**, such as day care facilities, residential developments, hospitals, schools, long-term care facilities, school aged child care programs, temporary shelters, nursing homes.
- ✓ Update the state sanitary code to **improve mold enforcement**.
- ✓ Upgrade building codes to **prevent the installation of new gas stoves**.

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Supported by Somerville Transportation Equity Partnership, MAPC, and the EJ Legislation Table: Neighbor to Neighbor; GreenRoots; Alternatives for Community & Environment; Coalition for Social Justice; Conservation Law Foundation; Clean Water Action; Community Action Works; MA Climate Action Network, Environmental League of MA; Green Energy Consumers Alliance; Better Future Project; Sierra Club of MA, North American Indian Center of Boston; 350 MA; Groundwork Lawrence; Lawyers for Civil Rights; Healthcare Without Harm, Union of Concerned Scientists, and UU Mass Action.