

Mass Ready Act – Overview

Healey-Driscoll Administration



Introduction

The Mass Ready Act invests in the Massachusetts way of life. It will **strengthen our infrastructure** – by fixing our roads that flood, ensuring our bridges are strong, and removing old dams that could threaten our homes. The Act **protects our water and nature** – guaranteeing our water is safe to drink, maintaining the quality of our beaches, and ensuring wildlife has the habitats it needs to survive. The Mass Ready Act **invests in our farms and local economies** to improve access to fresh, local produce and seafood, create more parks and recreational green spaces, and help our communities prepare for floods and wildfires. Lastly, it streamlines environmental permitting for many projects to bring housing online faster and with lower costs.

These commonsense investments create safer, stronger communities for future generations. The Mass Ready Act steps up to preserve the people, places, and nature that make Massachusetts special. This \$2.9 billion bill turns aspiration into action by addressing today's needs while preparing for tomorrow's challenges. Every dollar invested today will save Massachusetts \$13 in future costs.

Strengthening Our Infrastructure

The Mass Ready Act tackles infrastructure needs across Massachusetts. The Act prioritizes climate resilience and adaptation through investments to control coastal and inland flooding, and by upgrading dams, seawalls, and waterways. Additionally, funding will enhance state park facilities and recreational areas – improving roads, trails, and accessibility while actively designing climate resilience into new project construction.

- **\$764 million** to support **DCR property upgrades**, including roadways, bridges, parkways, and multi-use trails
- **\$401.6 million** to support **inland dams and flood control** projects, including the implementation of **nature-based solutions**. Additionally, investments will improve **coastal and marine infrastructure and restore ecological resources** (like shore protection, docks, beaches, and salt marshes)

- **\$200 million** to advance **ResilientCoasts** recommendations, which include supporting Resilience Districts in developing and advancing implementation plans
- **\$90 million** for the **Department of Fish and Game (DFG)** to **repair and modernize infrastructure**, including boat ramps and fish hatcheries, support commercial fisheries, and continue crucial ecological restoration projects
- **\$73 million** for infrastructure and facilities improvements to support the development and implementation of the integrated **ResilientMass** state hazard mitigation and climate adaptation plan
- **\$28 million** for Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to **manage solid waste** to decrease pollution

Additional proposals include enhancing the capacity of the **Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS)** so that new buildings can better withstand future climate conditions while advancing housing priorities, making sure **homebuyers and renters are aware** of flood risk and past damages through disclosures, **streamlining environmental permitting**, and establishing commissions for strategic planning on **port sustainability** and **Connecticut River Valley flood risk**, demonstrating a comprehensive approach to environmental and infrastructure management.

Investing in Farms and Local Economies

Massachusetts thrives when our local economies are strong. By investing in our farmers, environmental protection, and resilient infrastructure, the Mass Ready Act strengthens the backbone of communities across the state. It funds critical programs that address food security, help farms adapt to extreme weather events, and protect land and water resources.

- Establishment of a **Resilience Revolving Fund** that will provide low-interest loans to communities so they can invest in resilience projects that reduce risk and protect people and property
- **\$315 million** for the state's flagship resilience grant program, the **Municipal Vulnerabilities Preparedness (MVP)** program, which supports communities to identify climate hazards and implement action plans to improve resilience to climate change and avoid costly future damages

- **\$125 million** for **Food Security** programs that support equitable access to nutritious and local food, and fund about 150 projects per year
- **\$120 million** for investments in **land, soil, water, and natural resource conservation**, open space preservation, watershed remediation, water resource protection/management, coastal resource protection, and recreation
- **\$68 million** for Massachusetts Department of Agriculture (MDAR) to **protect farmland**, foster food security, and sustain agricultural economic viability
- **\$42 million** for **DEP Superfund hazardous waste** sites
- **\$30 million** for **forestry** and **tree planting** programs

The Mass Ready Act also modernizes key policies, including updating animal health enforcement and animal feed standards.

Protecting Water and Nature

The Mass Ready Act delivers bold action to protect Massachusetts' environment and natural resources. These investments are critical to ensure access to clean, safe water by upgrading infrastructure and tackling dangerous PFAS contamination. Efforts to conserve land will protect open spaces, forests, and wildlife habitats for future generations. Boosting biodiversity will sustain our ecosystems, and bringing more trees to urban areas will cool neighborhoods. This Act is not just about protecting nature – it's about protecting public health, quality of life, and the places that make Massachusetts special.

- **\$505 million** to invest in **clean water** infrastructure and remediate **PFAS** contamination
- **\$340.5 million** in land stewardship and conservation
- **\$98 million** for capital investments in environmental protection, climate adaptation, pollution cleanup, and waste reduction, including support for clean air and water, lab upgrades, local grants, and projects aligned with the state's climate and solid waste goals

- **\$20 million** to support DFG's **biodiversity** conservation goals
- **\$9 million** to support environmental law enforcement duties