

Tax Expenditure Review Commission Meeting
Wednesday, February 26, 2025
1:00 PM
Via Zoom

Commission Members in Attendance:

- Chairperson Rebecca Forter, MA Department of Revenue
- Lindsay Janeczek, Designee, MA Auditor
- Chris Carlozzi, Designee, Senate Minority Leader
- Professor Natasha Varyani, Governor's Appointee
- Professor Thomas Downes, Governor's Appointee
- John Keeler on behalf of Representative Michael Soter, Designee, House Minority Leader
- Andrew DeFalco, Designee, Senate Ways and Means Committee

Commission Members Absent:

- Tim Sheridan, Designee, House Ways and Means Committee
- Sue Perez, Designee, MA Treasurer
- Vacant (House Chair, Joint Committee on Revenue)
- Vacant (Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Revenue)

List of Documents:

- Meeting Agenda
- Draft Minutes
 - January 30, 2025 Meeting
- Presentation of TERC 2025 Report, discuss and vote on report

Meeting Minutes:

Chairperson Forter welcomed Commission members, and a quorum was recognized. The meeting via teleconference was called to order at 1:03 PM. Chairperson Forter put the Commission and public on notice that the meeting is recorded for the purpose of minutes. The recording of the meeting will be kept for public record.

Chairperson Forter noted changes in membership. Andrew DeFalco will attend on behalf of Katie Verra, designee for Senate Ways & Means. Commission members welcomed Andrew. TERC members include the House and Senate chairs of the Joint Committee on Revenue. There are no members appointed in the current General Court at the time of this meeting.

Chairperson Forter asked for any comments or changes on the January 30, 2025 draft meeting minutes. Members did not provide any comment. Members voted to approve the January '25 meeting minutes as drafted. The meeting minutes will be posted to the TERC website.

Chairperson Forter led a discussion on the draft TERC 2025 report and thanked members for reviewing the draft report. The conversation was then opened to members to provide any comments.

Sue Perez provided a comment on the introduction of the report, particularly the section containing “Tax expenditures that were reviewed in the past year, not otherwise flagged for legislative review above, and rated “strongly disagree” or “somewhat disagree””. Perez noted that some tax expenditure evaluation templates received such ratings but were not included in this section. These tax expenditures include 3.608 Exemption of Gifts of Scientific Equipment, 1.016 Exclusion for Certain Prizes and Awards, 1.036 Exemption for Survivor Annuities for Fallen Public Safety Officers, and 3.001 Exemption for Sales to the Federal Government. Chairperson Forter noted that some tax expenditures with those ratings were not included for various reasons, such as being a result of conformity to the Code, result of federal mandate, and/or negligible annual costs. Members agreed to add a sentence to this section explaining why only select tax expenditures rated “strongly disagree” or “somewhat disagree” were included. Members voted to approve the TERC 2025 Report with this change. Chairperson Forter noted that this change will be made, the draft report will be recirculated to members, and that if no further comments are received by Friday February 28th the report will be submitted as is.

Members agreed to reconvene in March to review the next batch of tax expenditures. Chairperson Forter thanked members for their contributions to the Commission. The meeting concluded at 1:15 PM.