

Climate Adaptation Management Plan (CAMP)



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Senate Bill 472 sponsored by Senator Marc Pacheco, Taunton

House Bill 2147 sponsored by Representative Frank Smizik, Brookline

Background

Climate change affects the world around us, impacting everything from the quality of our air and drinking water, to the integrity and security of our food supply, infrastructure and economy. The Commonwealth's cities and towns are unprepared to deal with climate risks such as sea-level rise, more frequent and severe flooding, and heatwaves.

A streamlined set of climate adaptation strategies, policies and measures will manage these risks by assessing and protecting vulnerable populations, critical infrastructure, and emergency management systems.

Costs and Risks Associated with Climate Change

The Massachusetts Climate Adaptation Report (EOEEA, 2011) determined that while the costs of making changes and actively managing the built and natural environments to buffer the impacts of climate change may be substantial, the cost of inaction may be far higher.

Sea level rise of 26 inches in Boston by 2050 could damage assets worth an estimated \$463 billion. Evacuation costs alone in the Northeast region resulting from sea level rise and storms during a single event could range between \$2 billion and \$6.5 billion.

The CAMP legislation would:

- Require the Commonwealth to identify and assess vulnerable areas and human populations, as well as emergency response, energy, transportation, communications, health, small business and other critical sectors.
- Establish best management practices and adaptation strategies for increasing the resiliency of the Commonwealth's populations, critical networks, assets and infrastructure.
- Establish a regional grant program for cities and towns to conduct vulnerability assessments and implement resiliency and planning with support from Regional Planning Agencies.
- Maximize natural defenses by allowing communities flexibility to work with willing homeowners to strategically reclaim and restore protective beaches and coastal areas.