



Legislation Summary:

An Act relative to transportation and environmental justice

Bill number(s): [H.3264/S.2138](#) (Bill numbers will change as legislation proceeds.)

Sponsors: Rep. Natalie M. Blais and Sen. Joseph A. Boncore

Purpose of the bill:

Governor Baker and the governors of Connecticut and Rhode Island have committed to participating in the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) Program, a regional effort to reduce pollution from the transportation sector. The regional agreement provides the program's framework but leaves key implementation decisions to individual states; H.3264 and S. 2138, will ensure that the TCI Program delivers benefits equitably across the Commonwealth. In addition to the need to electrify vehicles, there is also a need to build up public transportation and protect poor and low income communities from the disproportionate health and economic impacts of transportation pollution and inadequate public and mobility transportation options within their communities.¹

LWVUS position that allows support of this bill

2020-2022 Impact on Issues

Environmental Protection and Pollution Control pp. 92-94

Air Quality, pp. 92-94

"After beginning its study of air pollution in 1970, the League reached its 1971 position in support of federal air pollution controls on industrial production, government installations, fuels, and vehicles.

Brief description of what the bill does.

- Creates the TCI Trust Fund, which will fund investments in clean transportation, improved public transit, walking and biking infrastructure, and other projects to support transportation justice and cleaner air;
- Requires that at least 70% of TCI proceeds are invested in communities that suffer disproportionately from transportation pollution or lack access to mobility options, from East Boston to rural communities in western Massachusetts; and

¹ Relationship to Public Health. US Dept of Transportation: <https://www.transportation.gov/mission/health/health-equity>



- Defines the roles and membership of the TCI Equity Advisory Body, a group representing overburdened and underserved populations from across the Commonwealth that will shape the program's implementation and inform investment decisions.

Revenue generated would be invested to establish/provide/promote programs/projects supporting clean transportation and mobility, consistent with achieving required emissions' reductions, including but not limited to:

- Expansion/modernization of public transportation infrastructure and fleets;
- Electrification of public transportation, fleets, EV charging infrastructure;
- Alternative transportation methods, i.e., complete streets, dedicated bus lanes, bike paths, micro-mobility/pedestrian walkways;
- Minimizing transportation costs for low and moderate income individuals/families;
- Ensuring first and last mile connection to public transit.

More information

[Transportation emissions generate air pollution that has a large death toll](#)

06/08/2021 | Environmental Research Letters

[Health-related savings from increased walking and bicycling far exceed estimated transportation infrastructure costs](#)

01/28/2021 | Boston University/Harvard Chan C-CHANGE