



Legislation Summary:

An Act creating a climate bank in Massachusetts

Initial bill number(s): [H.3774/S.675](#) (Bill numbers will change as legislation proceeds.)

Sponsors: Senator Paul Mark, Representative Joan Meschino

What the bill does, why LWVMA supports or opposes it, and the League position relative to this bill.

The bill provides funding for: innovative projects to mitigate climate change; rapid adoption of clean energy; the overall transition to a decarbonized economy. The Climate Bank would be a public/private venture using public capital to bring in private sector investment. Funding would be provided via grants, equity, debt financing and other relevant financial products. The bill defines the purpose, funding sources, structure and governance of the bank. Annual measurement and reporting of the sustainability impact of the bank's investments to the legislature and executive branch are mandated by the bill. Assessment will be based on industry environmental, social and governance standards.

Why LWVMA supports this bill:

The federal government is providing funding for the establishment of climate banks in states across the country. The infusion of billions of federal dollars signifies the importance of action to address the threat of climate change. Climate banks exist in other states and have proven to be a driver of innovation and investment in effective programs to reduce emissions/pollution, support vulnerable communities and create jobs. The [Connecticut Green Bank](#) is an excellent example of the impact of a well-designed and operating Climate Bank. We have the technology and approaches to reduce the impacts of climate change. We need funding to deploy those solutions across the state at the unprecedented scale and speed dictated by the science and the ongoing and growing threat of climate change. A climate bank is supported by the Healey Administration, the Legislature, the business community, and many environmental and social welfare groups.

League Position relevant to support of this bill:

Impact on issues, p. 110:

“The League believes that climate change is a serious threat facing our nation and our planet. The League believes that an interrelated approach to combating climate change — including through energy conservation, air pollution controls, building resilience, and promotion of renewable resources — is necessary to protect public health and defend the overall integrity of the global ecosystem. The League support climate goals and policies that are consistent with the best-available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations. Individuals, communities, and governments must continue to address this issue, while considering the ramifications of their decision at all levels — local, state, regional, national, and global.”