

MWRA Advisory Board Legislative Package

2013/2014 Legislative Package	2015/2016 Legislative Pkg	Notes
<p>1. H883-An Act to Expand the Bottle Bill Filed by: Representative Thomas M. Stanley</p> <p>Expands the existing Bottle Bill to include a 5-cent deposit on bottled water containers. Unreturned deposit receipts would be placed in a dedicated fund available to municipalities, water districts, and the MWRA to be used for water and sewer infrastructure repairs and projects.</p>	No	With the rejection of the ballot question, the Bottle Bill is on life support.
<p>2. H778-An Act relative to the water resources funding act Filed by: Representative Ronald Mariano</p> <p>Inserts taxation of bottled water into the Massachusetts General Laws and creates a dedicated fund available to municipalities, water districts, and the MWRA to be used for water and sewer infrastructure repairs and projects.</p>	No	Possible fund source of Infrastructure Funding.
<p>3. H242/S368 -An Act Relative to the Sewer Rate Relief Fund H242 Filed by: Representative Ronald Mariano S368 Filed by: Anthony W. Petruccelli</p> <p>Would fund the Commonwealth Sewer Rate Relief Fund at formula as stated in Chapter 29; Section 2Z.</p>	Re-File	
<p>4. H1704-An Act to Eliminate Duplicate Payments for the PILOT Program in the Quabbin Reservoir under MGL CAAP 59, Section 56 Filed by: Representative Ronald Mariano</p> <p>Currently, MWRA pays over \$425,000 to six communities for annexed land, in addition to the PILOT payments.</p>	Re-File	
<p>5. HB59-An Act Providing Retiree Healthcare Benefits Reform</p>	Support	Bill was filed by Governor Patrick to control retiree healthcare and other non-pension costs. Lowers MWRA OPEB liability by \$50 to \$70 million.

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<p>6. S369-An Act establishing a lead service replacement program <i>Filed by: Senator Anthony W. Petruccelli</i> Low-interest loan program to assist homeowners with the replacement of private portion (curb to home) of lead service replacements. Similar to Title V.</p>	No	
<p>7. S370-An Act to establishing a lead service replacement Program- Municipal Reimbursement <i>Filed by: Senator Anthony W. Petruccelli</i> Establish State Program to reimburse municipalities for the cost of replacing the public portion (water main to curb) of lead service lines.</p>	No	
<p>8. H241-An Act to support the infiltration/inflow financial assistance program <i>Filed by: Representative Ronald Mariano</i> Reimburses the MWRA for cost of providing cities and towns with interest-free grants and loans to rehabilitate local collection systems to reduce I/I.</p>	Incorporated in Section 17 of SB2342	Reimburse MWRA up to \$13.8 million for I/I Expense. 2015/2016 Legislative Package to have funds directed to the Regional Water Entity Reimbursement Fund.
<p>9. H871-An Act to Reestablish the Former DEQE/DEP Water Meter Modernization Grant Program <i>Filed by: Representative Ronald Mariano</i> Re-creates program to allow communities to better meet Water Management Act/Water Conservation Standards.</p>	No	
<p>10. H779-An Act to Expand the Septic Tax Credit <i>Filed by: Representative Ronald Mariano</i> Would allow homeowners a tax credit of 20% of the debt service portion of their retail sewer bill; akin to Chapter 62; Section 6 (i) (Septic Tax Credit)</p>	No	

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<p><u>\$100 million for Economic Development</u> The Advisory Board intends to file new legislation seeking \$100 million from the Commonwealth to further local economic development and job creation by helping new applicants to the MWRA water system pay for the connection costs. This initiative would be an effort to obtain outside funding to further system expansion.</p>	Incorporated in Section 31A of SB2342	DEP, subject to appropriation, shall administer a matching grant program for communities wishing to join the MWRA; appropriation into DEP Budget.
<p><u>Online Sales Tax Revenue</u> Treasurer Grossman was recently quoted as saying that the Commonwealth stands to generate \$339 million in new revenue if it could collect sales taxes on transactions conducted over the internet. The MWRA Advisory in line with the recommendations made by the Water and Sewer Infrastructure Finance (WIFC) intends to file legislation to capture some of these funds in order to offset water and sewer infrastructure costs as well as offsetting the rising costs for ratepayers.</p>	No	Possible significant source of funds for infrastructure investment.

New Legislative Goals

Increase available contract assistance from \$88 million to \$138 million.		Incorporated as part of SB2342. Current cap is \$88 million; authorization to \$138 million. Significantly increase available funds for SRF Loans, including 0% and principal forgiveness.
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