

An Act providing for the public health by establishing an ecologically based mosquito management program in the Commonwealth

S.556/H.937 in the 2021-22 session, updated for 2023-24



MOSQUITO MANAGEMENT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

This legislation builds on the recommendations of the Mosquito Control for the 21st Century Task Force. It is a modernization of mosquito control under a new framework to protect human health, the environment, and enhance climate resilience.

The current system is greatly outdated and reform is urgently needed.



Policy Structure

- ❖ Repeal/Replace antiquated MGL Ch. 252.
- ❖ Revise structure and funding.
- ❖ MassDEP replaces DAR as supervising agency.
- ❖ Apply Integrated Pest Management (IPM).
- ❖ Establish science-based statewide Mosquito Management Plan.
- ❖ Provide low cost basic services to all municipalities, with additional services by local choice.
- ❖ Improve transparency and accountability.

Best Practices

- ❖ Provides for monitoring impacts and effectiveness of mosquito management measures.
- ❖ Requires menu of services available to municipalities not part of mosquito control districts.
- ❖ Strengthens Task Force Best Management Practice recommendations.
- ❖ Requires creation of an emergency arbovirus response plan for a public health emergency.
- ❖ Prohibits aerial spraying of pesticides (*minority Task Force recommendation, supported by independent health experts*).

Pesticide Selection

- ❖ Strengthens Task Force pesticide recommendations.
- ❖ Requires Board to work with scientists on effectiveness of mosquito program.
- ❖ Requires an annual, publicly available report.
- ❖ Prohibits use of any pesticide containing PFAS.

Local Engagement

- ❖ Strengthens Task Force Local Engagement recommendations.
- ❖ Focus on private property education; allow land owners to determine mosquito management / opt-out.
- ❖ Provides flexibility for any two municipalities to work together as a mosquito management district.
- ❖ Allows current Mosquito Control Districts to continue work through transition to newly formed mosquito management councils.