

Legislative Affairs

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Since 1985, Mass Audubon has reported the environmental voting records of the Massachusetts legislature to inform citizens of their state legislators' performance in protecting the nature of Massachusetts.

Purpose: This Report Card is a compilation of the roll call votes by state legislators on Mass Audubon's priority environmental bills or budget items with environmental implications. It is not a personal evaluation of legislators. We publish only how each legislator voted when he or she was asked to stand up and be counted during formal debate. A legislator's score does not represent an endorsement, or lack thereof, by Mass Audubon.

Method: To prepare this Report Card, we review all roll call votes on record filed with the Senate and House Clerks' offices. These are the votes of the legislators themselves, not Mass Audubon.

Many bills are passed or rejected by "voice votes" in formal or informal sessions. In these cases, the Senate President or Speaker of the House judges a motion's outcome based on the members' oral responses in the chamber, or on their written or vocal communications prior to open consideration in the House or Senate chambers. These decisions are not possible to track in an even fashion, and are not recorded in this Report Card. Otherwise,

when either required by rules or when one-fifth of the legislative body requests a call of the "yeas" and "nays" in a formal session, each member's vote is recorded on a roll call, and is printed in the legislative journal.

We evaluate those roll call votes that impact state conservation programs, budgets, policies, statutes, and regulations. A vote supporting environmental protection is given a point. Zero points are given to a vote against environmental protection, not voting, or voting as present. The scores of individual legislators are calculated by dividing the total points a legislator earned by the maximum possible score.

Results: An individual legislator's score may fluctuate from year to year, subject to the nature of the issues before the legislature, political dynamics, or absences due to illnesses, military service, or personal commitments, among other variables. Surveying a legislator's scores over the course of his/her tenure in office may produce a more comprehensive view of his/her commitment to environmental protection.

Roll call votes are an objective measure to evaluate legislators on their performance. This metric does not enable us to consider other critical subjective environmental leadership qualities, including:

- A legislator's position on an environmental item that was passed or rejected by a "voice vote" or that did not come to a vote;
- Time and energy spent by a legislator advocating for specific district-related environmental bills, projects, or grants;
- Quality of environmental bills filed or cosponsored by legislators; or
- A legislator's personal philosophy, ethic, or affiliation with national, state, regional, or local environmental organizations.

In 2015-2016, the House voted on 14 of our priority environmental roll calls (out of a total of 559 roll calls). The Senate voted on 11 of our priority environmental roll calls (out of a total of 681 roll calls).

The average score in the House was 91 percent. The average score in the Senate was 98 percent.

To download copies of past Legislative Report Cards, visit www.massaudubon.org/advocacy.

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Year in Review



TIM LENZ

It was a season for both celebration and disappointment on Beacon Hill, so let's start with the good news and commend the legislature for passing a landmark energy bill. That legislation will require the procurement of 1,600 MW of energy from the nation's first ever commercial-scale offshore wind farm, as well as encourage hydropower and other renewables, and enhance opportunities for large-scale energy storage.

Lawmakers also raised the state's cap for solar renewable energy credits, and rose together to override the Governor's unfortunate emergency cuts to the environmental agencies. The Senate in particular deserves accolades for passing climate change adaptation legislation three times, and for passing the first bill in decades to update the Commonwealth's zoning laws to allow for more sustainable development.

Which brings us to our disappointment with the House of Representatives. The Lower Chamber remains repeatedly unwilling to enact critical climate change adaptation legislation, particularly as we experience unprecedented warming across the globe. We were similarly disappointed that the House version, and ultimately the final version, of legislation enacted to raise the solar net metering cap did not go far enough, therefore we did not include the bill in our scores. Similarly, the comprehensive energy bill *An Act to promote energy diversity* was significantly stripped down in the House before being signed into law, including the removal once again of language for climate adaptation planning.

Despite these setbacks, we look forward to working with the legislature on more aggressive and comprehensive energy and climate bills next session. Massachusetts must remain a committed leader on environmental issues now more than ever as we transition to a new Congress and Presidential administration.

Another of Mass Audubon's goals for the coming year remains encouraging the legislature to engage in more floor debate on environmental legislation. Crucial decisions on environmental and energy policy should not be made during back-room meetings, but through open discussion on the House and Senate floors. This is particularly important in the House, where hardly any roll calls on our priority legislation besides budget amendments and overrides took place.

Along with offshore wind procurement in the energy bill, another bright spot was Governor Baker's issuance of an Executive Order directing state agencies to take action to make Massachusetts more resilient to climate change impacts. This action was an important step forward, but we will also continue advocating for our legislation, which includes more comprehensive and long-term solutions.

We also remain committed over the upcoming 2017-2018 session to bills that would amend the Community Preservation Act to sustain its funding, and increasing back to 1% the portion of state operating budget that supports crucial environmental programs. We will also be adding to our list of legislative priorities a bill that expands the state's focus on pollinator health.

Introduction to House and Senate Votes

The legislative process has unique terminology. Below is a glossary of terms.

Amendment:

Proposal by a member of the House or Senate to change the language or provisions of a bill.

Body:

Refers to either the House or the Senate.

Conference Committee:

Committee of three members from each body (one senator and one representative acting as chairs) appointed by legislative leaders to resolve differences between the two bodies when there are significant differences between the two versions of a bill passed by each body.

Third Reading:

Preliminary approval of a bill by a body. The Committee on Third Reading reviews the bill for technical changes, constitutionality, and to ensure that the bill does not duplicate existing law prior to the final vote by the legislature to approve, or engross, the bill. The bill can be amended after Third Reading and prior to engrossment.

Veto Override:

A vote to overturn a governor's veto. A two-thirds vote of the members present in both bodies is required to override a veto.

Engrossment:

Passage of the final version of a bill for enactment.

Enactment:

Final passage of a bill by the House or Senate.

HOUSE VOTES 2015-2016

Bill Number

KEY

Bill Title

Vote No. | Date

Action | Environmental Vote | Y-N-NV

Bill and vote description.

H. 3400

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget – Consolidated Environmental Amendment

No. 37 | 4/28/15

amendment adopted | Y | 159-0-1

Designates additional operating funds in the proposed state budget to environmental agencies and programs.

H. 3400

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget – Consolidated Labor and Economic Development Amendment

No. 47 | 4/29/15

amendment adopted | Y | 159-0-1

Designates additional operating funds in the proposed state budget to economic development agencies and programs, including the Community Preservation Act Trust Fund.

H. 3650

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget – Massachusetts Cultural Council (line item 0640-0300)

No. 63 | 7/29/15

veto override | Y | 154-2-4

Rejects the Governor's proposed reduction in state budget funding for the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

H. 3650

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget – State Climatologist (line item 2000-1207)

No. 103 | 7/30/15

veto override | Y | 118-37-5

Rejects the Governor's proposed reduction in state budget funding for a state climatologist.

H. 3650

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget – State Parks and Recreation (line item 2810-0100)

No. 134 | 7/30/15

veto override | Y | 135-20-5

Rejects the Governor's proposed reduction in state budget funding for management of state parks and recreation areas.

H. 3650

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget – Environmental Protection (line item 2200-0100)

No. 140 | 7/30/15

veto override | Y | 125-30-5

Rejects the Governor's proposed reduction in state budget funding for administration of the Department of Environmental Protection.

H. 4200

Fiscal Year 2017 Budget – Consolidated Environmental Amendment

No. 231 | 4/26/16

amendment adopted | Y | 157-0-2

Designates additional operating funds in the proposed state budget to environmental agencies and programs.

H. 4377

An Act to Promote Energy Diversity

No. 277 | 6/8/16

engrossment | Y | 154-1-5

Diversifies Massachusetts' energy sources, requiring utilities to establish long-term contracts for hydropower as well as clean, renewable offshore wind power.

H. 4450

Fiscal Year 2017 Budget – Environmental Protection (line item 2200-0100)

No. 428 | 7/30/16

veto override | Y | 133-24-3

Rejects the Governor's proposed reduction in state budget funding for administration of the Department of Environmental Protection.

H. 4450

Fiscal Year 2017 Budget – Riverways Protection Program (line item 2300-0101)

No. 430 | 7/30/16

veto override | Y | 129-28-3

Rejects the Governor's proposed reduction in state budget funding for the Division of Ecological Restoration's program for the promotion of wetland restoration and public access to rivers.

H. 4450

Fiscal Year 2017 Budget – Agricultural Resources (line item 2511-0100)

No. 432 | 7/30/16

veto override | Y | 138-19-3

Rejects the Governor's proposed reduction in state budget funding for administration of the Department of Agricultural Resources.

H. 4450

Fiscal Year 2017 Budget – State Parks and Recreation (line item 2810-0100)

No. 510 | 7/31/16

veto override | Y | 138-20-2

Rejects the Governor's proposed reduction in state budget funding for management of state parks and recreation areas.

H. 4450

Fiscal Year 2017 Budget – Massachusetts Cultural Council (line item 0640-0300)

No. 513 | 7/31/16

veto override | Y | 156-2-2

Rejects the Governor's proposed reduction in state budget funding for the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

H. 4568

An Act to Promote Energy Diversity

No. 551 | 7/31/16

conference committee | Y | 157-1-2
report accepted

(See No. 277)

HOUSE REPORT CARD SCORING METHOD

- A vote supporting environmental protection is (+), a vote against environmental protection is (-), absent or not voting is (NV), and present but not voting is (P).
- A (+) vote received one point, and (NV) or (P) or (-) votes received zero points.
- If multiple roll calls occurred in the House on the same version of a bill, we only scored the last vote taken.
- An environmental vote indicates whether a Yea (Y) or a Nay (N) is a vote for the environment.
- An asterisk (*) in a voting slot indicates that a Representative has either left the body or has yet to join the body.
- Representatives' absences causing them to miss one or more votes in 2015-2016 (noted by the asterisk [*] next to their score) could have been due to one or more of the following reasons: official business outside of the chamber; previously scheduled or unavoidable personal/family commitments, military service, illness, or other medical issues.

HOUSE REPORT CARD 2015–2016

[illegible]

[illegible]

HOUSE REPORT CARD 2015–2016 CONTINUED

[illegible]

SENATE VOTES 2015-2016

Bill Number

KEY

Bill Title

Vote No. | Date

Action | Environmental Vote | Y-N-NV

Bill and vote description.



ERIC KILBY

S. 1979

An Act providing for the establishment of a comprehensive adaptation management plan in response to climate change

No. 54 | 7/23/15

engrossment | Y | 37-0-1

Prepares Massachusetts for the impacts of climate change by identifying vulnerabilities and taking measures to protect public health, public safety, and the economy.

H. 3650

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget – Massachusetts Cultural Council (line item 0640-0300)

No. 62 | 7/29/15

veto override | Y | 38-0-0

Rejects the Governor's proposed reduction in state budget funding for the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

H. 3650

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget – State Climatologist (line item 2000-1207)

No. 114 | 7/30/15

veto override | Y | 33-4-1

Rejects the Governor's proposed reduction in state budget funding for a state climatologist.

H. 3650

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget – Environmental Protection (line item 2200-0100)

No. 142 | 7/30/15

veto override | Y | 36-0-2

Rejects the Governor's proposed reduction in state budget funding for administration of the Department of Environmental Protection.

H. 3650

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget – State Parks and Recreation (line item 2810-0100)

No. 143 | 7/30/15

veto override | Y | 36-0-2

Rejects the Governor's proposed reduction in state budget funding for management of state parks and recreation areas, including the Mass Audubon-managed Blue Hills Trailside Museum.

S. 2121

An Act Relative to 2030 and 2040 Emissions Benchmarks

No. 234 | 1/28/16

engrossment | Y | 37-0-1

Sets checkpoint greenhouse gas emission limits to help Massachusetts reach its existing 2050 emissions reduction goals. This version also incorporated our climate adaptation management bill language (see No. 54).

H. 4385

An Act to Promote Energy Diversity

No. 383 | 6/30/16

engrossment | Y | 38-0-1

Diversifies Massachusetts' energy sources, requiring utilities to establish long-term contracts for hydropower as well as clean, renewable offshore wind power. This version also included our climate adaptation management bill language (see No. 54) as an amendment.

H. 4450

Fiscal Year 2017 Budget – Environmental Protection (line item 2200-0100)

No. 558 | 7/30/16

veto override | Y | 37-2-0

Rejects the Governor's proposed reduction in state budget funding for administration of the Department of Environmental Protection.

H. 4450

Fiscal Year 2017 Budget – Riverways Protection Program (line item 2300-0101)

No. 560 | 7/30/16

veto override | Y | 37-2-0

Rejects the Governor's proposed reduction in state budget funding for the Division of Ecological Restoration's program for the promotion of wetland restoration and public access to rivers.

H. 4450

Fiscal Year 2017 Budget – Agricultural Resources (line item 2511-0100)

No. 562 | 7/30/16

veto override | Y | 37-2-0

Rejects the Governor's proposed reduction in state budget funding for administration of the Department of Agricultural Resources.

H. 4450

Fiscal Year 2017 Budget – State Parks and Recreation (line item 2810-0100)

No. 638 | 7/31/16

veto override | Y | 37-1-1

Rejects the Governor's proposed reduction in state budget funding for management of state parks and recreation areas, including the Mass Audubon-managed Blue Hills Trailside Museum.

SENATE REPORT CARD SCORING METHOD

- A vote supporting environmental protection is (+), a vote against environmental protection is (-), absent or not voting is (NV), and (P) indicates present but not voting OR votes from Senators who may have "paired" their votes, a procedure that allows Senators to vote when they are not actually present in the chamber.
- A (+) vote received one point, and (NV) or (P) or (-) votes received zero points.
- If multiple roll calls occurred in the Senate on the same version of a bill, we only scored the last vote taken.
- An environmental vote indicates whether a Yea (Y) or a Nay (N) is a vote for the environment.
- An asterisk (*) in a voting slot denotes the Senate President, Senator Stanley Rosenberg, or that a Senator has either left the body or has yet to join the body.
- Senators' absences causing them to miss one or more votes in 2015-2016 (noted in the asterisk [*] next to their score) could have been due to one or more of the following reasons: official business outside of the chamber; previously scheduled or unavoidable personal/family commitments, military service, illness, or other medical issues.

SENATE REPORT CARD 2015–2016

Vote Number	54	62	114	142	143	234	383	558	560	562	638	total
Date	7/23/15	7/29/15	7/30/15	7/30/15	7/30/15	1/28/16	6/30/16	7/30/16	7/30/16	7/30/16	7/31/16	
Yeas	37	38	33	36	36	37	38	37	37	37	37	
Nays	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	1	
No vote	1	0	1	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	
Enviro. vote	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Barrett, M.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Boncore, J.	*	*	*	*	*	*	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Brady, M.	*	*	*	*	*	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Brownsberger, W.	+	+	NV	P	P	+	+	+	+	+	+	73%*
Chandler, H.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Chang-Diaz, S.	+	+	+	P	P	+	NV	-	-	-	-	36%*
Creem, C.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
deMacedo, V.	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	91%
DiDomenico, S.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Donnelly, K.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	NV	91%*
Donoghue, E.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Downing, B.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Eldridge, J.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Fattman, R.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	82%
Flanagan, J.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Forry, L.	+	+	+	+	+	NV	+	+	+	+	+	91%*
Gobi, A.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Hedlund, R.	+	+	-	+	+	*	*	*	*	*	*	80%
Humason, D.	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	91%
Jehlen, P.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Joyce, B.	P	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	91%
Keenan, J.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Lesser, E.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Lewis, J.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
L'Italien, B.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Lovely, J.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
McGee, T.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Montigny, M.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	91%
Moore, M.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
O'Connor Ives, K.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
O'Connor, P.	*	*	*	*	*	*	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Pacheco, M.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Petrucelli, A.	+	+	+	+	+	*	*	*	*	*	*	100%
Rodrigues, M.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Rosenberg, S.	*	*	*	*	*	+	*	*	*	*	*	*
Ross, R.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Rush, M.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Spilka, K.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Tarr, B.	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	91%
Timilty, J.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Welch, J.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Wolf, D.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%

Mass Audubon protects 36,500 acres of land throughout Massachusetts, saving birds and other wildlife, and making nature accessible to all. As Massachusetts' largest nature conservation nonprofit, we welcome more than a half million visitors a year to our wildlife sanctuaries and 20 nature centers. From inspiring hill-top views to breathtaking coastal landscapes, serene

woods, and working farms, we believe in protecting our state's natural treasures for wildlife and for all people—a vision shared in 1896 by our founders, two extraordinary Boston women. Today, Mass Audubon is a nationally recognized environmental education leader, offering thousands of camp, school, and adult programs that get over 225,000 kids and adults out-

doors every year. With more than 125,000 members and supporters, we advocate on Beacon Hill and beyond, and conduct conservation research to preserve the natural heritage of our beautiful state for today's and future generations. We welcome you to explore a nearby sanctuary, find inspiration, and get involved. [Learn how at massaudubon.org.](http://massaudubon.org)