



Environmental Hot List September 2009

The Massachusetts League of Environmental Voters provides the Environmental Hot List to the legislature to highlight positions on no more than *ten* of the highest priority issues for the upcoming month. These include Mass Green Alliance priority bills as well as those submitted by other environmental organizations. The Environmental Hot List will be distributed each month via email and in hard copy to your office. We hope you find this communication helpful. Please feel free to contact me at megan@mlev.org or 617-462-3633 if you have any questions.

Megan Amundson
Political Director

SB 90 An Act to Sustain Community Preservation

Sponsored by Sen Cynthia Creem and Rep Stephen Kulik

Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Business hearing September 29, 11am in Gardner Auditorium

POSITION: SUPPORT

Contact: Stuart Saginor, Community Preservation Coalition, 617-367-8998

www.communitypreservation.org

- This bill would increase the annual minimum CPA trust fund match to 75% by increasing fees collected by the Registry of Deeds.
- It would allow communities to combine funding sources by using up to 2% of municipal revenue other than property tax to fund their local CPA account.
- It would clarify allowable uses for CPA funds so communities can rehabilitate existing outdoor parks and other recreational resources.

HB 4167 An Act designating natural heritage functions of the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement

Sponsored by Senator Stephen Buoniconti and Representative Cheryl Coakley-Rivera

Joint Committee on Environment, Agriculture and Natural Resources hearing October 7, 11:00am in room B-2

POSITION: OPPOSED

Contact: Jen Ryan, Mass Audubon, at 617-523-8448 or jryan@massaudubon.org

- This bill would limit the authority of the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program within the Department of Fish and Game to protect endangered and threatened species by



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prohibiting them from designating “priority habitat” and allowing them to use only “significant habitat,” which is considerably more rigid.

- The Heritage program currently regulates “priority habitat” instead of “significant habitat” because they believe designating “significant habitat” borders on a taking of property and they prefer to provide landowners with more flexibility.
- This bill would strangle the Heritage Program’s ability to protect rare species.

HB 3124 *An Act Relative to Expanding Energy Efficiency in the Commonwealth*

Sponsored by Sen Robert O’Leary and Rep Frank Smizik

Joint Committee on Telecom, Utilities, and Energy hearing October 7, 10am in room A-1

POSITION: SUPPORT

Contact: Ben Wright, Environment Massachusetts: 617-747-4313 or
ben@environmentmassachusetts.org

- The Bill would expand current law to improve efficiency in six types of appliances, most notably televisions.
 - Televisions are the only home appliance that are consuming more energy than ten years ago.
 - This bill is supported by a coalition of utilities, environmental advocates, and efficiency experts.
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