

SB 30 An Act Creating a next-generation roadmap

For Massachusetts climate policy

Sign by the Governor March 25, 2021

This is large bill with over 100 sections, with goals to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. Interim 2025, 2035 and 2045 limits established. Greenhouse gas emissions reduced from 1990 levels: 50% by 2030, 75% lower by 2040. In addition, clean energy replacing much of the electrical needs by 2050.

The act takes effect 90 days after bill signing. So in late June 2021 the Department of Public Utilities, Massachusetts' immensely powerful regulator of the natural gas and electric power industries, must begin to give equal weight to emissions reductions, alongside its traditional emphasis on reliability and prices.

Also on or about July 1, Gov. Baker will have three new vacancies to fill -- green building experts, all -- on a reconstituted Board of Building Regulation and Standards, a high-impact-low-profile entity with enormous sway over energy use in new construction.

Link to Worcester Telegram and Gazette March 26, 2021 article

<https://www.telegram.com/story/news/2021/03/26/massachusetts-gov-charlie-baker-signs-law-committing-net-zero-emissions-2050/7020743002/>

Highlights that will effect Building Officials, the Building Code and Energy Codes

Board of Building Regulation and Standards

Bill section number	Summary
64	increases membership of BBRS from 11 to 15
65	adds Commissioner or designee of DOER to BBRS
66	increases the number of appointees by governor from 9 to 12 on BBRS
67	Adds expert in commercial building energy efficiency, expert in residential building energy efficiency and expert in advanced building technology as gubernatorial appointees on the BBRS
68	Limits time served on the BBRS to 10 years
69	Limits time as chair or vice chair to 4 years in either position

- 70 Requires BBRs to publish meeting minutes within 30 day of meeting
- 71 Provides that commissioner of division of professional licensure consult with commissioner of energy resources in supervising the activities and staff of the State Board of Building Regulations and Standards
- 72 Requires integration of more stringent energy-efficiency provisions when incorporating the International Energy Conservation Code as part of the state building code. Rrequires consultation with DOER
- 73 Requires the State Board of Building Regulations and Standards to incorporate the specialized stretch energy code developed and adopted by the department of energy resources into the state building code. See section 31 below
- 74 Requires the State Board of Building Regulations and Standards to send any amendments to the state building code to each inspector of buildings and to the secretary of housing and economic development within 45 days of filing with the Secretary of State.
- 74A Allows interpretations, orders, requirements, directions, or failures to act related to the administration of the specialized stretch energy code to be appealed to the BBRs appeals board. (promulgated by DOER section 31)

Department of Energy Resources

- 31 Requires DOER to develop and promulgate, in consultation with the BBRs, a municipal opt-in specialized stretch energy code that includes, but is not limited to, net-zero building performance standards and a definition of net-zero building, designed to achieve compliance with the commonwealth's statewide greenhouse gas emission limits and sublimits established pursuant to chapter 21N.
- 98A Notwithstanding the promulgation of DOER's new municipal opt-in specialized stretch energy code, the current BBRs promulgated stretch energy code effect on March 1, 2021 shall remain in full force and effect; provided, however, that DOER, in consultation with the BBRs, may update such stretch energy code from time to time.
- A community designated as a green community under subsection (c) of section 10 of said chapter 25A that elects not to adopt the municipal opt-in specialized stretch energy code under section 6 of chapter 25A shall not lose its designation as a green community as a result of that election. (In other words, the new DOER promulgated municipal opt-in stretch code will be 100% optional for everyone regardless of Green Community designation – DOER is working on guidance)
- 101 Requires the department of energy resources to hold at least 5 public hearings, with at least 1 in an underserved community or community with a high percentage of low income households, in developing the specialized stretch energy code. Requires new municipal opt-in specialized stretch energy code to be developed and promulgated within 18 months of effective date of the act.

Other

37- 52

Adds definitions to MGL c. 25 § 2 for energy consuming devices

56 - 59

Submits new definitions relative to environmental impact reports required for projects undertaken by or permits issued by any agency, department, board, commission or other subdivision of the commonwealth, including environmental benefits, environmental burdens, and environmental justice population.