



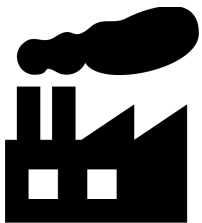
An Act Relative to Environmental Justice

S.453 - Sen. DiDomenico and S.464 – Sen. Eldridge

H.4264 - Reps. Dubois, Madaro, and Miranda

All people have a right to be protected from environmental pollution, to live and work in a healthy environment, and to enjoy parks and nature. The people most likely to live next to a dirty power plant or close to a noisy highway are people of color, low-paid and low-income people, and those residents who do not speak English well or at all. **Environmental Justice (EJ)** is the power of people to influence decisions about what happens in their neighborhood and to be protected by environmental laws.

Mass Power Forward supports adding a definition of environmental justice into state law, making owners of polluting facilities pay for language translation and interpretation at public meetings to describe their projects, and requiring state governments to allow less pollution and healthier neighborhoods. The Massachusetts Act relative to Environmental Justice would:



PROTECT COMMUNITIES FROM MORE POLLUTION

The Act expands the requirements for state government environmental review to include public health impacts and long-term harms when deciding whether to prohibit polluting projects.



INCREASE ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT AND INFORMATION

The Act ensures that polluters pay for translation of written information into languages spoken by nearby residents and interpretation at public meetings so that everyone can learn about a project and share their opinion with decision makers. The Act also requires public meetings to be held in convenient locations at times when people are able to attend.



INCREASE ACCESS TO HEALTHY RESOURCES

The Act expands access to parks, open space, clean rivers, gardens, and playgrounds particularly for neighborhoods that do not have these benefits. It will also provide funds and other resources to help neighborhoods that have not had many resources.

For more info, contact Andrea, andrea@n2nma.org, Maria Belen, mariabelenp@greenrootschelsea.org, or Staci Rubin, rubin@clf.org

Icons from the Noun Project: Injustice By Luis Prado; Court by tulpahn; Protest by Winter Schatz.



An Act to Restore Civil Rights

H.1512 – Rep. Meschino

H.3374 / S.915 - Rep. Madaro and Sen. DiDomenico

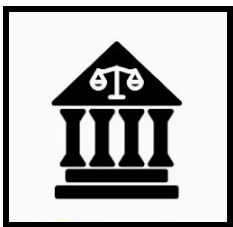
All people have a right to participate in state and local government programs and be free from discrimination. People who experience discrimination because of their age, disability, race, religion, gender identity, gender expression, medical condition, sexual orientation, or status as a member or veteran of the military, can file a complaint in court. **Civil rights** are laws guaranteeing that people are protected against unfair treatment based on a person's skin color, gender, age, or other part of their identity.

Mass Power Forward supports removing unjust actions by state and local governments and securing access to the courts for people that experience discrimination based on protected characteristics. The Massachusetts Act relative to Restore Civil Rights would:



PREVENT FUTURE DISCRIMINATION

The Act would prevent state and local governments from excluding someone from participating in a government program, harm people, or disadvantage people because of a person's protected characteristics.



INCREASE ACCESS TO COURTS

The Act ensures that people who have experienced discrimination can go to court and do not have to prove that the government intended to discriminate against them. The Act would also require the government to pay for legal costs for people that experienced discrimination when a judge decides that the government violated civil rights.



COOPERATE WITH MORE PROTECTIVE LAWS

The Act would not interfere with any other federal or state laws that are more protective and will cooperate with other legal requirements to prevent discrimination.

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