

H 2810 – Sponsor: Rep. Bill Driscoll

An Act to Promote Green Infrastructure and Reduce Carbon Emissions

Produces cleaner air Reduces carbon pollution emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Charges fossil fuel companies \$20/ ton of pollution the first year (increases gasoline about 16 cents/gal)• Fee rises \$5/ ton each year, as long as state carbon pollution emissions targets are not achieved• Includes methane leakage in the fee on natural gas• Decreases use of polluting technologies• Makes green energy more competitive• With existing electricity regulations, the state will be addressing over 90% of its emissions sources
How this affects you	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Do you own a farm or business? Are you worried that using green technology will price you out of the market?○ The carbon fee will help make the use of green energy (and your business) more competitive.
Funds green infrastructure projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 30% of the money collected in fees will go to a Green Infrastructure Fund• Infrastructure projects may include: public transit, electric vehicles, electric vehicle infrastructure; energy efficiency and renewable energy investment in housing, municipal infrastructure, and public-school buildings; loan programs for small business, climate resilience, renewable energy, and efficiency upgrades.• Town, cities and regions are eligible to receive grants
How this affects you	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Do you ride public transportation or work with people who rely on it?<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Funds generated by the Benson Bill could help fund public transportation, reducing not only emissions, but transportation costs.○ Do you own a house or a business? Are you a student or have children in public school?<ul style="list-style-type: none">- These funds could benefit you by reducing the impact of climate change through use of alternative energy or energy efficiency improvements○ Do you have or want to own an electric vehicle?<ul style="list-style-type: none">- This bill could provide funds for charging stations for your EV, enlarging your circle of travel on electrical power.○ Do you have a small business?<ul style="list-style-type: none">- This could include small business loans for you to become more energy efficient in your business.

<p>Protects low- and moderate-income residents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebates will be sent in a timely manner so that people can pay their bills • Residential rebates will <u>not</u> be counted as income when determining eligibility for state assistance • Funding for energy efficiency programs for renters and home heating assistance • At least 40% of the Green Infrastructure Fund must benefit low income residents and communities • Families in lowest 20% of incomes will receive on average \$2.87 for every \$1 of fuel cost increase • Families in middle of income range will get larger rebates than those with higher incomes • Higher rebates for rural residents
<p>How this affects you</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Are you a low to moderate income resident of Massachusetts? Do you live in a rural area? ○ This bill will greatly help you and your family meet increases in fuel costs. When fuel costs increase, most residents will come out ahead. ○ Improving the environment does not place an undue burden on the most financially stressed of our neighbors. ○ Can you use help for home heating? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This bill provides increased funding for energy assistance ○ Do you rent? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Often renters are left out of funding efforts for green energy. This bill will help with that.
<p>Strengthens the economy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creates jobs in a variety of sectors, including clean energy • Rebates spur local economic activity in lower income areas • Provides clear policy for business and reduces planning risks • Supports impacted industries including local governments, agriculture, fisheries and manufacturing by allowing them higher rebates than other employers • Supports the transition of workers in the fossil fuel industry by allocating \$1 M for job training • Spurs innovation and efficiencies in green technology
<p>How this affects you</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Do you need a job or know someone who does? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This bill will this provide job opportunities in a variety of areas. ○ Would you like to work in the clean energy sector? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The result of this bill would be the creation of 10,000+ jobs ○ Are you worried that using green energy and technology will make your business less competitive? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 17.5% of revenue from this bill will to go to protections for vulnerable industries in the state.

<p>Complements other climate bills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H2810 complements the Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI), should that be enacted. Subtracts TCI charge/ton of carbon from the cost/ ton under Benson’s bill • Benson’s bill is a specific policy ready for implementation, and covers the all the state’s emissions from by heating and transportation fuels • Exempts electricity generation as it is covered by a regional carbon cap and trade program (RGGI)
<p>How this affects you</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Are you worried that this bill will undermine larger initiatives, including multi-state, regional programs, currently under consideration (TCI)? - We can’t wait for TCI (and other bills) to be enacted. We need climate action NOW. <u>H2810 is ready to go now.</u> It is designed to work with both TCI and RGGI.
<p>Provides health benefits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2.9 Billion in health savings over approximately 20 years if this bill is implemented (Harvard Health Study, 2017) • Decreases in allergies and asthma, cancers, heart attacks, heat related illnesses
<p>How this affects you</p>	<p>How have health issues related to the environment negatively impacted your life?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Are you in the medical profession or other health services? Are you a teacher? Do you see effects from pollution in your patients or students? ○ Do you have allergies or respiratory issues? ○ Do you have children (both currently healthy and with respiratory issues)? ○ Do you currently suffer from allergies, asthma, or any of the above illnesses? ○ Do you have friends and family with these illnesses?