



# Massachusetts Collectors & Treasurers Association

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## 2019-2020 Legislative Agenda

The Massachusetts Collectors & Treasurers Association (MCTA) proposals come directly from our members and reflect their interest in performing their duties in a more efficient, cost effective manner.

### **House 2352: An Act Relative to Compensation for Assistants**

State law currently provides a stipend for municipal collectors and treasurers who obtain and maintain certification by the MCTA for their offices. These officials go through extensive training and education particular to their responsibilities and must pass a written examination. The stipend, which is subject to local acceptance, is 10% of the officers' compensation, up to \$1,000.

This proposal would provide the same type of financial incentive for assistant collectors and/or assistant treasurers. Again, the payment of any such stipend would be subject to local acceptance. A stipend of 5% of compensation, up to \$500, is proposed for assistant collectors and/or assistant treasurers who obtain and maintain MCTA certification.

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Angelo Puppulo

Cosponsors: Senator Bruce Tarr

Representatives Aaron Vega, David Linsky, Steven Howitt, Jay Barrows, Michael Finn, Susan Gifford, Carlos Gonzalez, Bradley Jones, Elizabeth Poirier, Bud Williams, Joseph McKenna

Public Service Committee

### **Senate 1178: An Act Relative to Municipal Use of the Prudent Investor Standards**

Upon acceptance a city, town, or district may manage trust funds held in its custody as a combined investment pool and may invest said funds in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Prudent Investor Act (MGL Chapter 203C).

Lead Sponsor: Sen. Vinny deMacedo

Cosponsors: Senators Anne Gobi, Bruce Tarr

Representatives David Linsky, Jay Barrows, Shauna O'Connell, David Robertson, Hannah Kane, Carolyn Dykema, Danielle Gregoire

Municipalities & Regional Government Committee (Hearing 7/30/2019)

### **House 1777: An Act Relative to Tax Title Expense**

This proposal allows cities and towns to recoup expenses related to redemption, foreclosure and land of low value for tax title accounts by modifying language in following sections of MGL 60, as described below:

Section 62: After 'all such charges,' add the phrase 'including legal fees incurred to date,'

Section 65: Add a new sentence at the end of this section - 'A city or town may add legal fees to the tax title account of the land to which the right of redemption is being foreclosed.'

Section 79: Strike reference to \$50 and replace with '\$500 or actual cost whichever is less.'

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Paul Donato

Cosponsors: Representatives Aaron Vega, David Linsky, Steven Howitt, Jay Barrows, Brian Murray, Bud Williams

Municipalities & Regional Government Committee (Hearing 10/29/2019)

### **Senate 1660: An Act Relative to the Collection of Personal Property Taxes**

There are millions of dollars in personal property taxes that go uncollected each year, leaving taxpayers who pay on time to cover the shortfall. One of the problems is that communities generally have to take the delinquent taxpayers to small claims court to collect those taxes. This takes time and money to pursue personal property taxes.

This proposal would amend Chapter 60 of the General Laws by inserting a new section which allows cities and towns to attach a lien for unpaid personal property taxes. The MCTA hopes this lien will compel delinquent taxpayers to pay their tax bills.

Lead Sponsor: Sen. Paul Feeney

Cosponsors: Senators Anne Gobi, Michael Moore

Representatives David Linsky, Jay Barrows, Brian Murray, David Robertson, David Biele, James Hawkins

Revenue Committee (Hearing 9/10/2019)

### **House 2580: An Act Relative to Charges associated with condominiums in Tax Title**

This proposal seeks to modify Chapter 60 of the general laws to permit cities and towns to add to a tax title account any amounts the city or town is required to pay to a homeowners' or condominium association for common expense charges and/or special assessments.

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Brian Murray

Cosponsors: Senator Bruce Tarr

Representatives David Linsky, Steven Howitt, Jay Barrows, Elizabeth Poirier, David Robertson, William Galvin

Revenue Committee (Hearing 9/10/2019)

### **Senate 1184: An Act relative to proceeds from the sale of bonds**

This proposal will modify Chapter 44, Section 20 (RE: Municipal Modernization Act of 2016), allowing greater flexibility in the application of BAN premiums. Some communities have tens of thousands of dollars sitting in accounts that cannot be used for other purposes.

Lead Sponsor: Sen. Cindy Friedman

Cosponsors: Senator Anne Gobi

Representatives David Linsky, Jay Barrows, Antonio Cabral

Municipalities & Regional Government Committee (Hearing 10/15/2019)

### **House 2353: An Act relative to the legal list of investments**

This is a new proposal to provide for input from municipal and district treasurers in the development of the list of permissible investments by the state banking commissioner, pursuant to MGL chapter 32, section 23.

As an initiative to the fiduciary responsibilities of Treasurers, the Massachusetts Collector Treasurer Association (MCTA) would like to propose a modification to MGL 167, Sections 15 and 15A. Currently, we feel the approved Legal List of is somewhat restrictive and outdated. As an organization, the MCTA would like to assist with, and be part of the investment committee (MGL 32 Sec 23) which reviews the list that is prepared, and submitted, annually. We feel this is important as treasurers are dealing with investments and the yield on those investments. Many communities are struggling with revenue and the increased revenue would alleviate some of the stress. However, while the MCTA would like to see the Prudent Investor Rule established, it understands the fiduciary responsibility as determined under current law. We would hope that by being on the committee, we could express concerns, desires, etc. to ensure that public funds are invested safely, wisely and for the best possible return. Additionally, we will be better informed to discuss this issue with the municipality's governing body.

Lead Sponsor: Rep. Angelo Puppolo

Cosponsors: Senator Bruce Tarr

Representatives Brian Ashe, David Linsky, Steve Howitt, Michael Finn, Carlos Gonzalez, Bradley Jones, Joan Meschino, Elizabeth Poirier, Jose Tosado, Bud Williams

Public Service Committee (Hearing 6/24/2019)

*For additional information, please contact the MCTA's Legislative Counsel, John Fernandes at (508) 935-7625 or [john@fplaw.net](mailto:john@fplaw.net)*