

MASSPIRG's State Legislative Report

2005-2006 Session

MASSPIRG is the state's leading advocate for the public interest. Each legislative session, we push for passage of a range of public interest bills and work to defeat measures that will harm the environment or consumers. This report indicates how senators and representatives stand on some important public interest bills. Unfortunately, the legislature only votes on a fraction of bills filed every session, and many important issues are left languishing. This report includes roll call votes when available. But for three bills on which there was no vote, (preventing identity theft, stopping global warming, and protecting our Boston Harbor Islands) we indicated whether lawmakers cosponsored or endorsed those bills. All three issues will be among MASSPIRG's top priorities for the 2007-08 session.

Each legislator in this report earns a score. The score represents the number of times the lawmaker voted in support of the public interest position combined with the number of our three priority issues they cosponsored or endorsed. The Senate has 8 items which we scored and the House has 9.

Senator	Total	Endorsed			Votes				
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Robert Antonioni	6/8		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	✓
Edward Augustus	7/8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	✓
Steven Baddour	5/8		✓		✓	✓	✓	—	✓
Jarrett Barrios	7/8	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Frederick Berry	4/8				✓	✓	✓	—	✓
Stephen Brewer	6/8		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	✓
Scott Brown	6/8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	—
Stephen Buoniconti	5/8		✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓
Harriette Chandler	6/8		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	✓
Robert Creedon, Jr.	7/8	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cynthia Creem	8/8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Susan Fargo	7/8	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jack Hart	4/8	✓			✓	X	✓	—	✓
Robert Havern	6/8	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	—	✓
Robert Hedlund	5/8	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	—	—
Patricia Jehlen	8/8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Brian Joyce	6/8		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	✓
Michael Knapik	4/8			✓	✓	✓	✓	—	—
Brian Lees	4/8	✓			✓	✓	✓	—	—
Thomas McGee	5/8		✓		✓	✓	✓	—	✓
Joan Menard	4/8				✓	✓	✓	—	✓
Mark Montigny	8/8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Richard Moore	7/8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	✓
Michael Morrissey	5/8	✓			✓	✓	✓	—	✓
Therese Murray	4/8				✓	✓	✓	—	✓
Andrea Nuciforo, Jr.	6/8		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
Robert O'Leary	7/8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	✓
Marc Pacheco	7/8		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Steven Panagiotakos	4/8				✓	✓	✓	—	✓
Pamela Resor	8/8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Stanley Rosenberg	4/8		✓		✓	✓	X	X	✓
Karen Spilka	7/8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	✓
Bruce Tarr	4/8		✓		✓	✓	✓	—	—
James Timilty	8/8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Richard Tisei	6/8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	—
Steven Tolman	7/8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	✓
Robert Travaglini	Senate President does not usually vote except in the case of a tie.								
Susan Tucker	8/8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Marian Walsh	6/8		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dianne Wilkerson	6/8		✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓

Public Interest Issues in the Massachusetts Legislature 2005-2006

BILL ENDORSEMENTS

1. Protect the Boston Harbor Islands. The Legislature successfully blocked **H 4500**, which would have transferred control of Outer Brewster Island, one of our precious Boston Harbor Islands and part of our public state and national park system, to a Virginia-based energy company to build an LNG terminal and storage facility. MASSPIRG urged lawmakers to oppose H 4500. As of the completion of this report, 87 legislators have indicated their opposition to this bill.

2. The Global Warming Bill (S 2516) would require Massachusetts to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), in which eight other Northeastern states (VT, CT, NY, MD, ME, NH, NJ, DE) are already participating. RGGI is designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the Northeast by capping emissions of carbon dioxide from power plants in 2009, mandating subsequent reductions. One hundred and twenty lawmakers, a majority of members in both the House and Senate, have endorsed the bill.

3. The Identity Theft Prevention Bill (H 4775) would help prevent the theft of personal data, by allowing consumers to freeze their credit reports. This consumer protection will prevent thieves from opening credit in a consumer's name. The bill also holds businesses accountable, requiring them to notify the public when there has been a security breach. Identity theft prevention bills have already passed in 36 states. Ninety-eight legislators have endorsed this bill.

VOTES in House and Senate

4. Energy Efficiency Standards Bill (H 4299)
This law will cut utility bills in the Commonwealth by at least \$1 billion between now and 2030 by making common appliances more energy-efficient. The new law includes the first in the nation updated energy efficiency standards for furnaces and boilers, one of a home's biggest energy users. **The bill was signed into law on November 22, 2005.**

5. Mercury Reduction Bill (H 4665, H 4670)

This law reduces mercury pollution in Massachusetts by phasing out the use of products that unnecessarily contain mercury and replacing them with safer alternatives. The law also requires producers to take back remaining mercury products for recycling. **The bill was signed into law on July 28, 2006.**

6. Toxics Use Reduction Act (S 2250)

This law expands the first in the nation Toxics Use Reduction Act (TURA). TURA requires companies to identify and reduce the use of toxics chemicals in Massachusetts. The new law updates the program by targeting the most hazardous chemicals so we can reduce our exposure to the worst toxics. This law also expands the scope of the bill to focus on water and energy use in addition to chemical use. **The bill was signed into law July 28, 2006.**

7. Expedited Permitting (H 4968)

The law to expedite the permitting process sacrificed thoughtful planning, environmental protection and community concerns. The House vote is on final passage of the bill (7.27.06). The Senate vote is on striking an amendment that would have protected the health and environment of the state's most polluted communities (7.28.06). *In both cases we urged a no vote. Despite our opposition, the bill was signed into law on August 2, 2006.*

8. Cost Benefit (S 2256)—Senate Only

The cost-benefit amendment to the Economic Stimulus bill would have prevented all environmental and public health regulations from going into effect without a flawed and time-consuming, bureaucratic process. This amendment would have put a price tag on our environment and public health and weakened the government's role in protecting public health and the environment. *The public interest vote was against the amendment. The amendment failed.*

8. Equitable Coverage for Annuity Policies (H 2970)—House Only

The bill would have required that state regulated annuity policies sold to residents of Massachusetts be gender-neutral in all the terms and conditions of the contracts, including premiums and benefits. **The bill passed the House on 7.26.06 but was not taken up by the Senate.**

9. Fire Safe Cigarettes (S 2403)—House Only

Smoldering cigarettes are the leading cause of fatal household fires in Massachusetts. The new law will reduce these tragedies by requiring the tobacco industry to make all cigarettes self-extinguishing—meaning they stop burning when not being actively smoked. While the bill passed both branches, the Senate did not take a roll call vote (it passed by a voice vote). **The bill was signed into law on July 8, 2006.**

Key

- ✓ Position for the public interest
- Position against the public interest
- X Did not vote
- NA Not in office at time of vote

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Representative	Total	Endorsed			Votes					
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Cory Atkins	8/9		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Demetrius Atsalis	7/9		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Bruce Ayers	7/9	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Ruth Balser	8/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
John Binienda, Sr.	6/9		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	–	✓
Deborah Blumer		Deceased								
Daniel Bosley	5/9				✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Garrett Bradley	7/9	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Arthur Broadhurst	5/9		✓		X	✓	✓	–	✓	
Antonio Cabral	6/9		✓		✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Jennifer Callahan	9/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Christine Canavan	8/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Gale Candaras	7/9		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Stephen Canessa	7/9		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Mark Carron	5/9	✓	✓		✓	X	✓	–	X	✓
Paul Casey	7/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	X
Michael Coppola		Deceased								
Virginia Coppola	4/7			✓	NA	NA	✓	✓	–	✓
Edward Connolly		Deceased								
Robert Correia	5/9				✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Michael Costello	6/9		✓	✓	X	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Robert Coughlin	5/9				✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Geraldine Creedon	8/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Sean Curran	6/9	✓			✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Robert DeLeo	5/9				✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Viriato DeMacedo	5/9			✓	✓	✓	✓	–	–	✓
Brian Dempsey	5/9				✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Salvatore DiMasi	5/9				✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Paul Donato	6/9		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Christopher Donelan	8/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Joseph Driscoll, Jr.	5/9	✓			✓	✓	✓	–	–	✓
James Eldridge	9/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lewis Evangelidis	6/9		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	–	✓
James Fagan	4/9				✓	✓	✓	–	–	✓
Christopher Fallon	9/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mark Falzone	7/9		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Robert Fennell	5/9				✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Michael Festa	8/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Barry Finegold	6/9	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	–	✓	X
Jennifer Flanagan	6/9		✓		✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
David Flynn	6/9		✓		✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Linda Forry	6/9		✓		✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Gloria Fox	6/9		✓		✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
John Fresolo	4/9				✓	✓	✓	–	–	✓
Paul Frost	4/9				✓	✓	✓	–	–	
William Galvin	8/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓
Colleen Garry	4/9				✓	✓	✓	–	–	✓
Susan Gifford	5/9			✓	✓	✓	✓	–	–	✓
Anne Gobi	8/9	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Emile Goguen	5/9				✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Thomas Golden, Jr.	7/9		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Shirley Gomes	6/9			✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Mary Grant	7/9		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
William Greene, Jr.	7/9	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Denis Guyer	8/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Patricia Haddad	5/9				✓	✓	✓	–	✓	

		Endorsed			Votes					
Representative	Total	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Geoffrey Hall	5/9				✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Robert Hargraves	7/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	–	✓
Lida Harkins	7/9	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Bradford Hill	5/9			✓	✓	✓	✓	–	–	✓
Kevin Honan	7/9	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Donald Humason, Jr.	5/9			✓	✓	✓	✓	–	–	✓
Frank Hynes	9/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bradley Jones, Jr.	4/9				✓	✓	✓	–	–	✓
Louis Kafka	7/9		✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Michael Kane	4/9			✓	✓	✓	✓	–	–	X
Rachel Kaprielian	8/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Jay Kaufman	8/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
John Keenan	5/9				✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Thomas Kennedy	4/9		✓		X	X	✓	–	✓	✓
Kay Khan	8/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Peter Kocot	8/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Robert Koczera	7/9		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓
Peter Koutoujian	6/9		✓		✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Paul Kujawski	6/9	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	–	–	✓
Stephen Kulik	9/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
William Lantigua	5/9		✓		✓	✓	✓	–	–	✓
James Leary	6/9		✓		✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Stephen LeDuc	5/9	✓			✓	✓	X	–	✓	✓
John Lepper	4/9				✓	✓	✓	–	–	✓
David Linsky	9/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Barbara L'Italien	8/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Paul Loscocco	5/9		✓		✓	✓	✓	–	–	✓
Elizabeth Malia	7/9	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Ronald Mariano	5/9				✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
James Marzilli	8/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
James Miceli	6/9	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	–	✓	X
Michael Moran	6/9	✓			✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
James Murphy	7/9	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Charles Murphy	6/9	✓			✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Kevin Murphy	6/9		✓		✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
David Nangle	5/9				✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Patrick Natale	6/9		✓		✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Harold Naughton, Jr.**	3/9				X	X	✓	–	✓	✓
Robert Nyman	6/9	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	–	–	✓
Thomas O'Brien	7/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	–	✓
Eugene O'Flaherty	5/9				✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Shirley Owens-Hicks	5/9				✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Marie Parente	5/9	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	–	X
Matthew Patrick	8/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Anne Paulsen	9/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vincent Pedone	5/9			✓	✓	✓	X	–	✓	✓
Alice Peisch	8/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Jeffrey Perry	4/9				✓	✓	✓	–	–	✓
Douglas Petersen	7/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	X	✓
George Peterson, Jr.	4/9				✓	✓	✓	–	–	✓
Thomas Petrolati	5/9				✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Anthony Petrucci	5/9				✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
William Pignatelli	8/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Elizabeth Poirier	4/9				✓	✓	✓	–	–	✓
Karyn Polito	4/9				✓	✓	✓	–	–	✓
Susan Pope	6/9		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	–	✓

		Endorsed			Votes					
Representative	Total	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Denise Provost	7/7	✓	✓	✓	NA	NA	✓	✓	✓	✓
John Quinn	4/9				✓	✓	✓	–	–	✓
Kathi-Anne Reinstein	8/9	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Robert Rice, Jr.	2/7				NA	NA	✓	–	–	✓
Cheryl Rivera-Coakley	6/9			✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Michael Rodrigues	4/9				✓	✓	✓	–	–	✓
Mary Rogeness	4/9				✓	✓	✓	–	–	✓
John Rogers	5/9				✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Richard Ross	6/9		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	–	✓
Michael Rush	9/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Byron Rushing	5/9		✓		✓	✓	✓	–	✓	X
Jeffrey Sanchez	4/9				✓	✓	✓	–	✓	X
Tom Sannicandro	7/9		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Angelo Scaccia	5/9				✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
John Scibak	9/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Carl Sciortino	8/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Frank Smizik	7/9		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Todd Smola	5/9			✓	✓	✓	✓	–	–	✓
Theodore Speliotis	6/9				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Robert Spellane	3/9				✓	✓	✓	–	–	X
Christopher Speranzo	4/9				✓	✓	✓	–	–	✓
Joyce Spiliotis	8/9		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Marie St. Fleur	5/9				✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Thomas Stanley	8/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Harriette Stanley	6/9	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	–	✓	X
Ellen Story	9/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
William Straus	9/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
David Sullivan	6/9				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Benjamin Swan	6/9		✓		✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Kathleen Teahan	9/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Walter Timilty	8/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Stephen Tobin	6/9	✓			✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Timothy Toomey	8/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
David Torrisi	5/9				✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Philip Travis	5/9				✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓
Eric Turkington	8/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Cleon Turner	7/9		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
James Vallee**	3/9				✓	✓	X	X	X	✓
Anthony Verga	8/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Joseph Wagner	4/9				X	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Brian Wallace	6/9	✓		✓	✓	✓	X	–	✓	✓
Patricia Walrath	5/9			✓	✓	✓	X	–	✓	✓
Martin Walsh	6/9		✓		✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Steven Walsh	6/9		✓		✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Martha Walz	8/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	✓
Daniel Webster	4/9				✓	✓	✓	–	–	✓
James Welch	5/9	✓			✓	✓	✓	–	–	✓
Alice Wolf	9/9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓