

2025-2026 Legislative Agenda



H.1426/S.949 | *An Act to Provide Green and Healthy Public Colleges and Universities and Address Their Deferred Maintenance Needs*

Lead Sponsors: Rep. Manny Cruz (D-Salem) & Rep. Aaron Saunders (D-Belchertown) | Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow)

Capital debt service in public higher education strains college budgets, diverts funds from instruction and often passes costs on to students in the form of additional fees. Outdated buildings and unaddressed deferred maintenance negatively impact the occupational health and safety of these buildings, increasing energy costs and contributing to global climate change.

This legislation would:

- Establish a Green and Healthy Public College & University Building Planning Commission to assess issues including energy efficiency, indoor air quality and accessibility.
- Create a trust fund to ease the campus debt load and reduce related fees to students, which are currently being used to pay this debt.
- Provide sufficient funding to finance renovations and construction and prevent these costs from being passed on to students and families.
- Ensure all campuses meet “Green and Healthy” standards by 2037, prioritizing buildings with the greatest need and addressing persistent inequities.
- Improve indoor air quality and fossil fuel-free systems that protect students, faculty and staff.

Please contact MTA Government Relations if you have any questions or require any additional information.
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