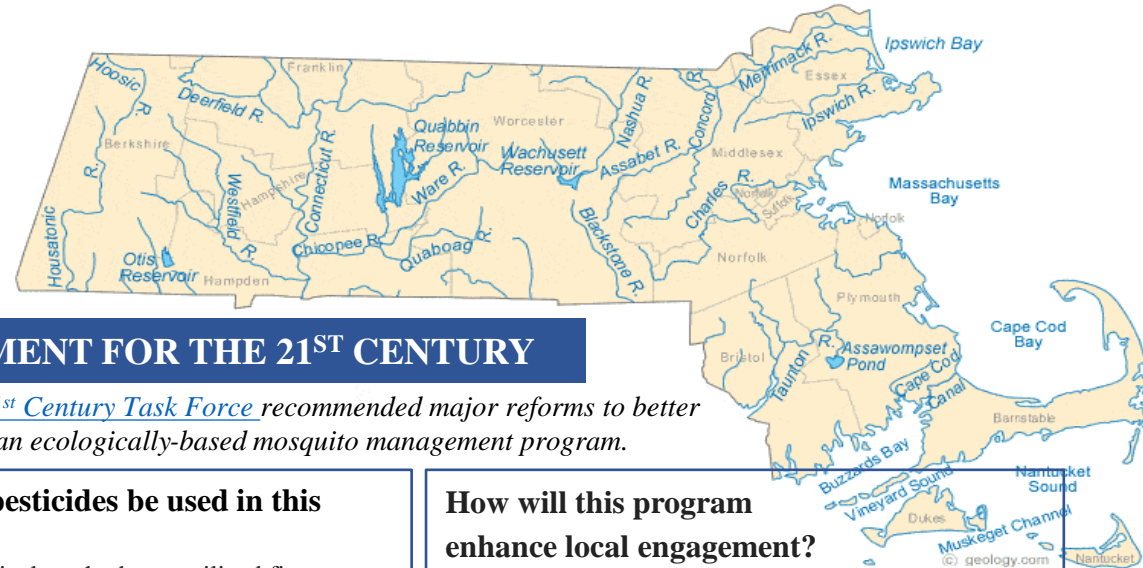


An Act Establishing An Ecologically-Based Mosquito Management Program In The Commonwealth To Protect Public Health S.547/H.985



MOSQUITO MANAGEMENT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

In 2022, the [Massachusetts Mosquito Control For The 21st Century Task Force](#) recommended major reforms to better protect human and environmental health through an ecologically-based mosquito management program.

What will this bill do?

- ❖ Update the existing outdated law (MGL c. 252).
- ❖ Expand expert involvement and transparency in the mosquito management program.
- ❖ Ensure consistent implementation of mosquito-borne disease control through a science-based, statewide Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan.
- ❖ Combine cultural, physical, and biological controls for more effective, ecological mosquito management.
- ❖ Protect against mosquito-borne diseases through monitoring, public education, source reduction of mosquito breeding sites, and restoration of wetland habitat for natural mosquito predators.
- ❖ Protect people, fish, pollinators, and the environment by reducing pesticide use.
- ❖ Ensure continuous improvement through annual revisions based on data on effectiveness and impacts.

How will pesticides be used in this program?

- ❖ Non-chemical methods are utilized first.
- ❖ When pesticide use is unavoidable, least-toxic chemicals are prioritized.
- ❖ Larvicides may only be used where disease-vector mosquitoes are present, and source reduction is not possible.
- ❖ Adulticides may only be used where less hazardous methods have been implemented, and the disease risk is high or critical in the current year, per the Dept. of Public Health.
- ❖ Aerial spraying of adulticides is prohibited.
- ❖ Pesticides containing PFAS are prohibited.

For more information visit : NOFA/MASS
<https://www.nofamass.org/home/policy/massquito/>

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How will this program enhance local engagement?

- ❖ Currently, there is no public input process on the state's mosquito management practices. Under these reforms, the draft IPM Plan will be available for a 60-day public comment period and will be updated at least every three years with further public review.
- ❖ Local mosquito management activities will be tailored to local needs.
- ❖ Statewide education will be expanded on mosquito-borne diseases, eliminating standing water, and personal protection to prevent mosquito bites.
- ❖ All communities will have access to mosquito testing. Currently, many municipalities are unable to participate in testing without accepting pesticide applications they do not want.
- ❖ Municipalities and landowners can opt out of pesticide applications, except following a public health emergency declared by the governor.
- ❖ Activities, expenditures, and efficacy information will be published annually.