

From: [MASSterList <massterlist@massterlist.com>](mailto:massterlist@massterlist.com)
To: [Christina St. Pierre <stpierre@manchester.ma.us>](mailto:stpierre@manchester.ma.us)
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Subject: [EXTERNAL] - Nicotine-free generation



By Ella Adams and Eric Convey

Lawmakers eye statewide effort to phase out nicotine sales for younger adults

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Today's News

What would a generation without access to nicotine look like? Come 2025, the Massachusetts Legislature will be asked to consider that question.

Nine communities in Massachusetts already ban nicotine sales to anyone born after a certain date, following the nation-leading policy in Brookline that the state's highest court [upheld](#) in March.

Now, Sen. Jason Lewis and Reps. Tommy Vitolo and Kate Lipper-Garabedian plan to file a similar age ban as a statewide bill in January, they said at a press conference Monday.

There's already staunch opposition to the municipal bans policies from industry leaders — like the New England Convenience Store and Energy Marketers Association — who argue they are an "infringement on adults' rights" and won't address youth tobacco use. Lawmakers early expect lawsuits to pop up should their proposal become law.

Lewis said the big question of economic impact, however, would be a "gradual" scope — and less significant than the existing ban on flavored tobacco and nicotine products was — by phasing in the changes.

Lawmakers didn't indicate if they've floated the idea by top House and Senate Democrats . Lewis said he's given Public Health Committee Chair Sen. Julian Cyr a heads-up, while Lipper-Garabedian said House members of the Public Health Committee have been informed about the local bans "to give them a sense of something that was starting to proliferate."

Many ideas idle on Beacon Hill for years before they begin to move, and the massive scope of this policy could fuel a similar fate. But having a bill at the State House that their colleagues can bring back to their communities, Lipper-Garabedian said, could improve "motivation and the momentum that's happening at the local level."

Vitolo countered potential doubts with history: Massachusetts's ban of flavored nicotine products in 2019 was filed and passed within the same session.

"We're hoping for a similar speediness by the Legislature," he said. "We're prepared to have 200 conversations, one with each member of the House and Senate, and work with our colleagues one at a time until we get there." — Ella Adams

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Happening Today

9:00 | Southeast Massachusetts Climate Action Forum hosted by Mass. Legislative Climate Alliance Caucus Chairs Sen. Pacheco and Rep. Meschino , joined by Mass. Climate Chief Hoffer | International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 223, 475 Myles Standish Blvd., Taunton

10:30 | Sen. Markey hosts press conference "warning about the dangers of President-elect Trump's health nominees | JFK Federal Building, 9th Floor, 15 Sudbury St., Boston

1:00 | AG Campbell appears on GBH News's "Boston Public Radio" | WGBH-FM 89.7 & [GBH News Online](#)

1:00 | Gov. Healey swears in Shawn Jenkins as the next commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Correction | Governor's Ceremonial Office

2:00 | Joint Committee on Transportation holds a hearing on Gov. Healey's proposal to prevent hundreds of drivers from losing their commercial licenses | Room A-2 | [Agenda & Livestream](#)

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Boston tax bill advanced by House, sent to Senate

After Republican Rep. David DeCoste of Norwell blocked the Boston property tax bill from moving forward in the House twice last week, reps on Monday advanced the measure to the Senate without a hitch. The Senate met Monday morning but did not touch the proposal; advocates are unsure whether there is consensus among senators on whether to move it forward. The last iteration of this bill was stuck in the Senate for months, before Boston Mayor Michelle Wu compromised with the business community and redrafted the measure. — [Boston Globe](#)



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The Clinical Leadership Collaborative for Diversity in Nursing is a health equity partnership founded by Mass General Brigham and UMass Boston that supports diversity, practice preparedness, and behavioral health competency with a goal to recruit and retain nursing students from underrepresented communities. [Learn more](#) about a recent critical \$20 million expansion to the program.

Fire season in Mass. burns more acres in two months than in previous two years

More acres burned in wildfires across Massachusetts in October and November than have burned in the past two years combined. In those two months, over 3,654 acres have burned — a significant majority of the 4,262 acres that have burned over the entirety of this year. According to the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the wildfires are unprecedented because this scale is uncommon during

later fall months, and because of how rapidly they spread. The Beacon's Bhaamati Borkhetaria looks at the environmental context of the fires, what challenges arise as a result, and the impacts. — [CommonWealth Beacon](#)

The T has a plan to combat fare evasion

The T has an issue with people riding for free — so officials are putting an enforcement presence in front of passengers to remind them to pay. Officials don't know exactly how much fare evasion has cost the agency in recent years, but in 2019, the T estimated it loses nearly \$30M annually as a result. The Globe's Shannon Larson looks at why the cost of fare evasion is part of the equation, how other cities have addressed fare evasion and how the fare engagement team has been working. — [Boston Globe](#)

Healey expects "everyone" to implement audit law

While legislative leaders continue to argue against the constitutionality of state Auditor Diana DiZoglio's now-passed measure that gives her office the power to audit the Legislature, the governor is staying out of it. On Monday, Gov. Healey said that "voters spoke on this" and that she expects "everyone will work to implement it." The law has not yet taken effect, despite DiZoglio's push for the Legislature to comply with an audit from her office. Last week, DiZoglio wrote to AG Andrea Campbell for support in bringing litigation to legislative leaders to make sure they comply. — [State House News Service](#)

New Worcester city manager contract would put Batista above \$300K

The Worcester City Council will vote on Tuesday on City Manager Eric Batista's new three-year contract. If approved, the contract would raise Batista's starting salary by 3 percent, and then starting in July 2025 he would get a 3.9 percent raise, followed by a 2.9 percent raise the following July. By mid-2026, Batista would be making over \$314K, part of a contract that would be effective through December of 2027. This fiscal year, Batista's salary sits at a little more than \$283K. — [Telegram & Gazette](#)

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Beverly City Council votes down interjecting in ongoing teachers union negotiations

On Monday night, the Beverly City Council voted against interjecting into the ongoing negotiations between the Beverly School Committee and the Beverly Teachers Association. The move follows the BTA claiming the mayor and School Committee were "walking away" from the bargaining table. Patch's Scott Souza reports that with a 4-3 vote, councilors determined that passing the resolution would not necessarily change what happens in the negotiation room, and some argued the council shouldn't directly have an impact on the negotiations in the first place. — [Patch](#)

How are local Indigenous communities reclaiming their food sovereignty?

WBUR's Amanda Beland looks at what different members of the Wampanoag community are doing as a way to reclaim food sovereignty — from opening a restaurant, to growing traditional corn, to opening a bakery — and how food plays a role in building and maintaining community and representing the individual. The knowledge of ancestral foods, and building that community with food, gives Indigenous people time to maintain cultural practices that aren't often allowed to thrive in the economy and food

system normalized today. — [WBUR](#)

Northampton demonstrators keep pushing to reverse school district job cuts

Last Thursday, local labor groups and supporters rallied outside of Northampton City Hall to continue to call for restoration of the positions cut in Northampton Public Schools last budget season. The protesters called on the city and mayor to spend "rainy day" funds to restore the jobs — more than 20 positions across the district, including an English teacher and those of paraeducators. While Northampton increased its most recent school budget by \$3M, the district still saw cuts in public schools; the mayor said the cash reserves that the city has in its budget needs to be used for things like one-time expenditures or capital projects, not on salaries.

— [Daily Hampshire Gazette](#)

Italian app developer buying Boston's Brightcove

Brightcove Inc. , a Boston-based developer of video production and streaming services that employs more than 300 people in the United States, is set to be purchased in 2025 by Italian app developer Bending Spoons for \$233M in cash, the BBJ's Lucia Maffei reports. Bright Cove, which saw net income and revenue decline last year, maintains a platform that lets customers operate video services via web-based tools. Bending Spoons is known for purchasing and now operating Evernote, a pioneering note-taking app and software platform. — [Boston Business Journal](#)

Swampscott issues drinking water warnings

The town of Swampscott has sent letters to some residents warning them that the lines connecting their homes to the municipal water supply are constructed of an unknown material that may contain lead, Item Live's Zach Laird reports. Mailings contain information about the effects of lead and warn that boiling water doesn't remove lead. — [Item Live](#)

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