

An Act Relative to the
Architectural Access Board
Senate Bill 1323

Hearing on Wednesday, October 14 at 11:00 a.m.
Hearing Room A-2
The State House
Boston

Senate Bill 1323 would update the AAB's jurisdiction to align with the Americans with Disabilities Act. *Please join us in supporting this bill!*

- The Architectural Access Board (AAB) is the state body in charge of ensuring buildings are accessible. However, it can only enforce state law, and MA laws have fallen behind the federal Americans with Disabilities Act standards. SB 1323 fixes this problem.
- Under state law, new and renovated buildings used by businesses only need to be accessible in areas used by customers. Areas used only by employees do not need to be accessible, keeping people with disabilities out of the workforce. SB1323 would fix this.
- Unlike the federal law, state law does not require that apartment building owners add accessible units when they renovate their buildings. This is a major reason why it is so hard to find an affordable accessible apartment. SB 1323 would require accessible units be added.
- SB 1323 would remove outdated and hurtful language from the state code, replacing phrases such as "handicapped persons" with "persons with disabilities" etc.
- Employment and housing are two of the most vital needs for people with



Awards Gala

Please plan to attend our Awards Gala and Fundraiser on Friday, November 13. Visit our [webpage](#) for the details!

MWCIL



MetroWest Center
for Independent
Living

Website:
www.mwcil.org

Email:
info@mwcil.org

disabilities. Nationwide, our unemployment and homelessness rates are more than double those of the general population, in substantial part due to lack of physical access.

CALL YOUR LEGISLATORS and ask them to co-sponsor SB 1323

SPEAK AT THE HEARING on October 14th at the State House in Room A-2

EMAIL Harold.Naughton@mahouse.gov and James.Timilty@masenate.gov

For more information, please contact Colin Killick at the Disability Policy Consortium; ckillick@dpcma.org or 617-542-3822

SB1323 is endorsed by disability advocacy organizations across the Commonwealth including the Disability Policy Consortium, National Multiple Sclerosis - New England Chapter, Easter Seals, the Disability Law Center, *MetroWest Center for Independent Living*, Boston Center for Independent Living and Independence Associates.

[Click here for the proposed regulations.](#)

[Click here for a Fact Sheet](#)


[Click Here for Talking Points](#)

Thank you,

Paul Spooner,
Executive Director

Phone:
(508)875-7853

Address:
280 Irving Street, 2nd
floor
Framingham, MA 01702

Facebook: 

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

How SB 1323 relates to Housing

The proposed regulations would require that when large buildings (like warehouses or old schools) undergo complete rehab to be used as housing- usually requiring the interiors to be completely built out, that along with the 5% of the units being fully accessible (which is already required), the remaining 95% would be built adaptable which is the current requirement for new construction.

As it stands right now, these old building rehabs are not required to build in any adaptability into the 95% of the units - like blocking in the bathroom walls or 32" wide door clearances. Of course this impacts folks with disabilities who might be able to use a unit that is not fully accessible but simply may need grab bars in a bathroom, and clearly impacts folks who rent an apartment when they are young and end up staying there for years only to find that their apartment can't handle something as simple as grab bars.

Contact Your Legislators

If you're not sure who your State Senator and Representative are, or have lost their contact information, [Click Here at wheredoivotema.com](http://wheredoivotema.com).

www.mwcil.org

MetroWest Center for Independent Living
280 Irving Street
Framingham, Massachusetts 01702
(508) 875-7853

Copyright © 20XX. All Rights Reserved.

[Forward this email](#)

 SafeUnsubscribe™

This email was sent to srorke@mwcil.org by srorke@mwcil.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [About our service provider](#).



MetroWest Center for Independent Living | 280 Irving Street | Framingham | MA | 01702