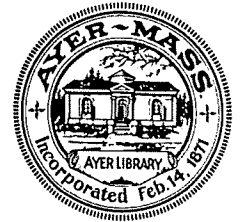


Office of the Select Board  
Office of the Town Manager

---



Town of Ayer| Ayer Town Hall| 1 Main Street| Ayer, MA 01432|978-772-8220| [www.ayer.ma.us](http://www.ayer.ma.us)

September 17, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Joint Committee on Public Service  
c/o Senator Michael D. Brady, Co-Chair  
Representative Daniel J. Ryan, Co-Chair  
The State House  
24 Beacon Street – Room 416-A  
Boston, MA 02133

**Re: Regional Support of Thirteen Communities of the Nashoba Valley for Passage of H.2960 “An Act relative to non-Commonwealth entities”**

Dear Senator Brady and Representative Ryan,

The following thirteen communities of the Nashoba Valley Region (Ayer, Bolton, Boxborough, Devens, Dunstable, Groton, Harvard, Lancaster, Lunenburg, Pepperell, Shirley, Stow, Townsend) are writing to the Joint Committee on Public Service to express our support for passage of H.2960 “An Act relative to non-Commonwealth entities” sponsored by Representative Margaret R. Scarsdale; Senator James B. Eldridge; and Representative Danillo A. Sena. Our sixteen towns are all members of the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health (Nashoba), a regional health district which allows our communities to pool resources and provide robust public health services to the residents of our sixteen towns. Since 1931, Nashoba has provided a well-trained, professional full-time staff to our small communities. These critical public health services have included: professional health inspectional services; community nursing; public health education; public vaccination clinics; and the professional expertise required of all municipalities in terms of protecting and promoting the public health of our communities and the Commonwealth. **We are asking for the Joint Committee on Public Service to vote favorably to advance H.2960 for legislative approval.**

The Nashoba Associated Boards of Health (Nashoba) were allowed to join the State retirement system (system) in 1967. In 2014 the system discovered that the system had not been billing Nashoba for the employer portion of the pension provided to their staff, the current staff at Nashoba were unaware of this responsibility and obligation. In their discussion with the staff of the system, they were informed the system needed to bill Nashoba for the pension expense as provided in the law which allowed them to join as a non-commonwealth entity. They were further informed that any changes to the monies owed or method for calculating the required employer portion of the pension expense would require legislative action. Nashoba has been working during various legislative sessions to try and get legislation passed to address this situation, and last year it came close but the bills which would have provided the necessary relief did not pass. Nashoba, working with the State Treasurer’s office and the offices of Representative

Margaret Scarsdale, Senator James Eldridge, and Representative Danillo Sena filed, advocated, and support H.2960 which is before your Joint Committee for approval.

H.2960 provides resolution and relief in two ways; first the bill would change how Nashoba contributes its employer's share to the fund, the contribution would be paid on current staff salaries at a rate set by the system's actuarial staff. This simple change would allow Nashoba to budget for this expense during the normal budgeting period. Nashoba has been working to resolve this payment method for more than ten (10) years and given the time since the discovery, the amount of the payment has created a situation that is threatening their financial viability. The second type of relief would address back payments owed to the system. H.2960 would provide additional relief for back payments and allow the system to work with the affected entities such as Nashoba.

**We are asking for the Joint Committee on Public Safety to vote favorably to advance H.2960 for legislative approval.**

In conclusion, the Department of Public Health has been encouraging the formation of shared service arrangements to help local public health departments pool their resources to provide improved services to their communities. Nashoba has been doing this for 94 years and the relief of this pension matter will allow Nashoba to continue providing critical public health services to our sixteen communities and for years to come.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and support.

Signed:



Robert A. Pontbriand  
Town Manager, Town of Ayer



Marie Sobalvarro  
Town Administrator, Town of Bolton



Michael C. Johns  
Town Administrator, Town of Boxborough



Neil Angus  
Director, Devens Enterprise Zone



Jason Silva  
Town Administrator, Town of Dunstable



Mark Haddad  
Town Manager, Town of Groton



---

Daniel F. Nason  
Town Administrator, Town of Harvard



---

John Woodsmall  
Town Administrator, Town of Lancaster



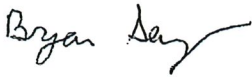
---

Jennifer Warren-Dyment  
Town Manager, Town of Lunenburg



---

Andrew MacLean  
Town Administrator, Town of Pepperell



---

Bryan Sawyer  
Town Administrator, Town of Shirley



---

Denise M. Dembroski  
Town Administrator, Town of Stow



---

Nelson Mui  
Town Administrator, Town of Townsend

Cc: State Representative Margaret R. Scarsdale  
State Senator James B. Eldridge  
State Representative Danillo A. Sena  
State Senator John Cronin  
State Senator Edward Kennedy  
State Representative Meghan Kilcoyne  
State Representative Natalie Higgins, Vice Chair, Joint Committee on Public Service  
Mr. James Gareffi, Director, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health